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LD1711141788 [Editorial Report]

Pakistan

Elections—With 200 of 205 seats counted in the parliamentary elections, Islamabad radio reported that Pakistan's People's Party (PPP) won 91 seats, the Islamic Democratic Alliance 52, and independents 39. No other party had won more than 7 seats. According to Delhi radio, PPP leader Benazir Bhutto won a seat in the National Assembly, while former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and other leading Democratic Alliance members lost their parliamentary seats. **Missile Attack**—A Scud missile believed to have been fired from Jalalabad landed inside Pakistani territory 16 November, killing 10 people, "informed sources" told AFP.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio reported the capture of a Pakistani adviser in Nangarhar Province and claimed that Afghan Government troops killed 505 "extremists" in one day throughout 7 provinces. The radio also reported that six foreign journalists were attacked by the mujahidin along the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway. Meanwhile, the mujahidin claimed killing a "large number" of Kabul troops and capturing three security posts in Nangarhar Province, according to Islamabad radio.

In other developments, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov denied that the Soviet Union has sent Afghanistan 30 MiG-27's, Moscow World Service radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

The PNC chairman disicosed to Algiers television the contents of the PNC resolutions on forming a government. The resolutions entrust the PLO Executive Committee with forming a provisional government "as soon as possible," to submit to the Central Committee for a vote of confidence. The provisional government will be comprised of Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, selected on the basis of political plurality and national unity.

PNC member Jamal al-Surani appealed to the United States to support the Palestinian independence declaration, WAKH reported, because it responds to all of the U.S. requirements, including acceptance of UN Resolution No 242, a renunciation of terrorism, and a call for peaceful coexistence.

In further reaction to the PNC declaration, Damascus television broadcast a statement from a "responsible source" that said Syria supports the establishment of a Palestinian state and a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, but condemns offering Israel concessions. The statement contends that the proper way to regain the occupied territories and assert national rights is by "unifying the Palestinian arena on solid militant grounds" and supporting the uprising.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov announced that the Soviet Union welcomes the decisions adopted by the PNC, TASS reported. Lebanese acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss also welcomed the declaration and said recognition is "natural," according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front stated its rejection of the session's resolutions and called for the escalation of confrontation with Israel, the clandestine Al-Quds radio revealed.

Lebanon

A Swiss Red Cross official was kidnapped in Sidon 17 November, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that talks are being held between a Red Cross delegation and officials in the Nasirite Popular Liberation Army to secure the hostage's release.

Israel

The Alignment will not include a rotation of the premiership as a condition for a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported, but will insist on the defense portfolio, and either the foreign affairs or finance portfolio.

Sudan

SPLA leader John Garang and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party signed an agreement on ways to end the civil war, SUNA reported.

According to MENA, the agreement stipulates the cancellation of the "September laws" and reinstatement of the 1974 laws, with a freeze on all clauses related to borders. It calls for the abrogation of all military agreements between Sudan and other countries that affect national sovereignty and an end to the state of emergency. It also declares a cease-fire. The agreement stresses the need to convene a national constitutional conference by 31 December.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Chairman on Provisional Government

LD1611201888 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1916 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] PNC Chairman Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih today announced for the first time to Algerian television the resolutions of the intifada session on forming a provisional Palestinian government. Here is the text:

[Begin Al-Sa'ih recording] Following the issuing of the resolutions of the extraordinary PNC session, which was held in dear and sisterly Algeria from 12 to 15 November, for the first time we openly declare to the media the resolution issued concerning the Palestinian Government. Here it is:

The PNC decides in its extraordinary 19th session, the intifada session, that a provisional government for the State of Palestine shall be formed as soon as possible and in accordance with the circumstances and developments.

The Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee are entrusted with the fixing of the date for the formation of the provisional government. The Executive Committee is entrusted with forming the provisional government, which will be submitted to the Central Council for a vote of confidence. The Central Council adopts the temporary system of ruling until the Palestinian people begin to exercise full sovereignty over Palestinian land.

The provisional government shall be comprised of the leaderships, personalities, and competent Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied homeland on the basis of political plurality and the embodiment of national unity. The provisional government shall define its program on the basis of the independence document, the PLO political program, and the resolutions of the national councils.

The PNC entrusts the PLO Executive Committee with the powers and responsibilities of the provisional government until the declaration of the government's formation.

The resolution was submitted to the PNC members and won their unanimous approval. Thank you. [end recording]

DFLP's Hawatimah on Outcome of PNC Session

LD1611230288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1525 GMT 16 Nov 88

[By KUNA team]

[Text] Algiers, Nov 16 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Nayif Hawatimah announced here Wednesday that the provisional Palestinian government will be formed soon and said that declaration of independence was a great victory for the uprising and its unified leadership.

He called on Egypt, at a press conference 36 hours after the historic declaration of the independent Palestinian state, to recognize the new state.

Hawatimah asked Cairo, which yesterday welcomed the PNC declaration, to recognize the Palestine National Council resolutions in toto.

He said that the government will be formed out of the PLO factions and from Palestinian figures, who are committed to the PLO program, in the occupied territories and in diaspora.

The government's program will be based on the independence declaration, PLO program and PNC resolutions, he said, adding that the government will be an extension of the PLO and will be responsible for the Central Council of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will perform the government's duties until its formation, the DFLP leader underlined, adding that one of those duties will be forming the Palestinian delegation to the international conference.

Other duties will be catering for affairs of the newly-born state, relations with world countries and affairs of the Palestinians wherever they are, he said, adding that it will further issue passports, to three million Palestinians in various states, to be recognized by countries that have recognized the state. Hawatimah affirmed that the declaration of the independent state had took four months of continued debates within the Palestinian leadership. He noted that it defeated American pressures that tried to avert the PNC's declaration.

He noted that all PNC resolutions have been adopted unanimously with the exception of the political resolution dealing with the international conference and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The DFLP secretary general described the PNC's 19th extraordinary session as that of historic resolutions that made the Palestinians' life a new phase of struggle.

He pointed out that U.S. [word indistinct] went into two stages, the first, which succeeded, pressed for delaying PNC convocation until after the American and Israeli elections; the second, which did not succeed was to prevent the council from proclaiming the independent state and the provisional government, and to work for issuing a clear resolution which says that 242 and 338 and the political rights are the basis of convening the international conference. Messages from the European governments of Britain, Spain, and Italy, as well as some Arab sides carried those pressures to the PLO.

He expressed pessimism over the near convening of the international conference, however, due to the American and Israeli stands.

The DFLP leader said that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was daily developing and in the end would reach civil disobedience or complete rupture with the occupation authority, comprehensive confrontation and banning work within Israeli institutions.

Asked on fate of the Palestinians living in the 1948 occupied lands, he said that they have to decide their own destiny, adding that they, around 750,000, have already declared that they are part and parcel of the Palestinian people.

Noting that Israel was not against Palestinians but all Arabs, Hawatimah said that the Palestinian movement had since the 1920s differentiated between Zionism and Judaism.

The PLO will share with a non-official delegation in the non-governmental international conference in Prague Dec. 6-8, including poet Mahmud Darwish and PNC members.

In conclusion, he said that the American-Soviet negotiations on the Middle East did not yet reach positive results on the international conference and appreciated the French stance toward the Palestine cause.

Al-Surani Hopes for U.S. Support After PNC

JN1611190088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (WAKH)—PNC member Jamal al-Surani expressed his hope that the United States would understand the PLO's position, which expresses the opinion of the Palestinian people. This has been manifested by the rallying of these people around the PNC's decision in the West Bank, Gaza, Galilee, the Palestinian camps in Syria and Lebanon, and Palestinian concentrations everywhere in the world.

In a press statement this afternoon, the Palestinian official said he hopes that the United States would understand the nature of the Palestinian people, who are committed to peace and who are the victims of terrorism and aggression. He also hoped the United States would understand that the Palestinian people are ready to bear the full responsibilities and full commitments of the United Nations Charter and the human rights declarations and that the Palestinian people do not use force and reject the occupation of land by force or military invasion.

He added that the United States, being one of the two superpowers and responsible for international security and peace, should work toward achieving peace in this sensitive part of the world. He said that there will not be real peace in the region unless it is mutual and said that Israel, after the October war of 1973, continued its war against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and its attacks on Iraq, Tunis, and the Palestinian camps by hijacking planes, piracy on the seas, and stocking up on developed weapons.

We have now responded to everything the United States asked for, foremost of which is accepting the international Resolution 242 despite the fact it sees us as refugees. The United States also asked us to renounce terrorism despite the fact we are the victims of terrorism. It also asked us for peaceful coexistence, which the PNC responded to as well in the name of the Palestinian people.

He clarified that the next Palestinian steps revolve around many frameworks, some of which are unifying the Arab nation into one position after declaring the Palestinian state, as well as all the friendly powers in the world, to support the Palestinian stand, alongside serious and concerted efforts to hold an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East while supporting the Palestinian uprising and ensuring its [word indistinct].

On the reactions to declaring the Palestinian state, he said that many countries have recognized the new Palestinian state. He expressed his expectation Syria would recognize this state.

State on Palestinian Land Within '4 Years'

JN1711090088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Nov 88 pp 20, 17

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has said that the independent Palestinian state will be translated on the land of Palestine during a period of no more than 4 years if the uprising, with all of its impacts on the Israeli, Arab, and international communities, continues, and if the policy of international detente and the active political moves by the PLO and the Arab countries also continue.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR before leaving Amman for Cairo last night, Hurani said that he is optimistic about the future because the declaration of the Palestinian state and the position on Security Council Resolution 242 have come at the appropriate time that might produce results.

He added: The next move after the Algiers resolutions is to follow up the implementation of the political statement, which constitutes the framework of action for the next stage. The political stands contained in this statement are a qualitative development in the PLO policies in light of the international detente and the agreement between the two superpowers to solve regional conflicts by peaceful means.

He said that the political statement came at the right time so as to help promote political stands and the outcome of the uprising on the international scene. With

its objectivity and realism, Hurani said, the political statement will constitute an additional weapon to that of the uprising. It will serve as a pressure tool on the world public opinion.

The statement will also end the U.S. Administration's pretexts, which it uses to justify its refusal to deal with the PLO or recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, Hurani said. He added that the statement will also help isolate the extremist Israeli stand and show the world that "Israel", not the PLO, is the extremist party. It will show the world that the PLO adopts realistic policies.

He expressed the view that this statement will bring closer the convening of the international conference, which will discuss the Middle East issues in general, and the Palestine question in particular.

Hurani highly appreciated Jordan's stand, and the Jordanian Government's recognition of the independent Palestinian state. He pointed out that Arab and international reactions will constitute a positive pressure element toward world recognition of the Palestinian state.

He said that Palestinian delegations will tour world capitals, not only to polarize international support for the Palestinian state, but also to win support and backing for the political program and resolutions adopted by the PNC at its latest session in Algiers.

He pointed out that the success of the Likud in the Israeli elections puts more pressure on the Israeli Government than the pressure that would have been put on it had the Labor Party won the elections. He explained that Peres, through his weak stands, would have presented himself as "a man of peace", which might have eased world pressure on Israel.

Hurani said: Let us face it, the party that decides the international conference is neither us nor Israel. It is the two superpowers and the Security Council's permanent member states that decide the convening of this conference. He recalled what Golda Me'ir said when her forces were forced to withdraw from Sinai in 1956: "How small we are before the big."

On the effect of the Algiers declaration on the uprising, Hurani said that the declaration of the Palestinian state is a strong morale weapon for the uprising. With its realism, the political program is also a strong weapon. It will make the uprising and its masses feel that their sacrifices do not go in vain. It will produce positive results for the Palestinian cause.

He said the PLO leadership is moving realistically and positively to invest in the uprising and convert it to political stands by the world. He praised the responsible positions during the PNC session.

PPSF 'Official Source' Rejects Resolutions

JN1611164288 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1518 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, an official source at the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has stated the following: The front rejects the political resolutions issued by the PNC in its emergency session in Algiers, most serious and dangerous among which are:

First the PNC's acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338; and second, the political statement and the establishment of the provisional government. This is so because all these contain a recognition of the Zionist state of usurpation in Palestine and lead to the abortion of the uprising and to the liquidation of the revolution, the PLO, and the Palestine question. These resolutions also respond to the liquidatory Zionist-U.S. conditions, relinquish the Palestine National Charter, and deny our people's right to struggle to liberate the entire Palestinian soil and the occupied Arab territories. They also lead to further divisions and bloody conflicts within the Palestinian arena and subject our people to further tragedies and woes.

The PPSF statement continues: Therefore, the front will continue to confront the course of deviation, capitulation, and relinquishment. It urges all nationalist Palestinian and Arab citizens to confront this destructive defeatist course in both Palestinian and Arab arenas.

Concluding, the front stresses the escalation of confrontation with the enemy and asserts support for our people's uprising in the occupied homeland. It also stresses confrontation against the capitulationist draft solutions. The front pledges to our people everywhere that it will continue to exercise armed struggle and all forms of struggle until the achievement of victory over the enemy and until Palestine and all the occupied Arab territories are liberated.

Assassination Attempt Against 'Arafat Claimed

NC1611151188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, a Palestinian official in Lebanon, has said he expects Israel to escalate its military operations against Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon. He announced that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was the target of an assassination attempt before the convening of the PNC in Algeria last week. Wahbah refused to provide other details.

Comparison of PNC Political Statement

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on 16 November publishes on page 18 the "text" of the political statement issued by the PNC at the end of its 19th session in Algiers on 15 November. The AL-RA'Y version has been compared with the Baghdad Voice of the PLO version published in the 16

November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 2-5, and was found to be identical, allowing for the following fills, clarifications, and additions:

Page 3

First column, first paragraph, second sentence make read: ...was manifested by the increase in the understanding of the Palestinian people's... (supplying indistinct words)

First column, second paragraph, only sentence make read: ...land against the Israeli repression and... (deleting extraneous editorial notation)

Second column, penultimate paragraph, only sentence make read: ...Palestinian territories under international supervision to protect our masses and to end the Israeli occupation. (new paragraph) G. To call on... (supplying indistinct words)

Page 4

First column, fourth paragraph, third sentence make read: ...conference is convened is on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian... (supplying additional material and rephrasing for clarification)

First column, last paragraph, only sentence make read: ...and Arab territories occupied since 1967. (new graf) 4.... (supplying indistinct words)

Second column, first paragraph, sentence one make read: ...4. Endeavoring to place the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under UN supervision for a specific period of time to protect our people and to create a suitable atmosphere which would render the international conference a success, lead to a comprehensive political settlement, and achieve peace and security for everyone through mutual agreement and consent to enable the Palestinian state to exercise its real authority over these territories... (supplying indistinct words)

Second column, paragraph five, second sentence make read: ...on confederal bases and also on the basis of a free and voluntary choice by the two fraternal peoples to entrench the... (supplying indistinct words and rephrasing for clarification)

Second column, paragraph six, second sentence make read: ...UN Resolution 159/42 of 1967, Resolution 40/61 of 1985, and the contents... (rephrasing per monitor recheck)

Page 5

Column one, paragraph four, first sentence make read: ...of the struggle among parties of the Arab liberation movements. The council, while addressing its greetings and thanks to the Arab countries for their support to our people's struggle, appeals to them to fulfill... (supplying indistinct words and rephrasing for clarification)

Column one, paragraph six, first sentence make read: ...As the council directs this appeal... (correcting word)

Column two, last paragraph, from last sentence make read: ...the Palestinian people. (new graf) The council empowers the Executive Committee to complete the measures to form the committee for commemorating the symbol martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] so that the committee will begin its work immediately after the conclusion of the PNC's work.

The council extends special greetings to the UN Committee for the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights, international institutions and organizations, fraternal and friendly nongovernmental organizations, media people, and all the media that backed our people's uprising and struggle.

The PNC, while expressing its profound pain over the continued detention of hundreds of strugglers from among the sons of our people in several Arab countries and strongly denouncing their continued detention, calls on these countries to put an end to these anomalous conditions and to release these strugglers so they can play their role in the struggle.

Finally, the PNC expresses its full confidence that the justice of the Palestinian cause and the demands for which the Palestinian people are struggling will continue to gain the support of free and honorable people in the whole world. It also affirms its full confidence in complete victory on the path to Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.... (supplying additional material)

South Asia Regional Affairs

Telecommunications Meeting Opens in Dhaka 14 Nov

BK1411073888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The 2-day ninth meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Telecommunications began in Dhaka today. Inaugurating the meeting State Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury underscored the need for closer relations among the SAARC members in the field of telecommunication. He also underlined the important role of telecommunication in the growth of economic activity as well as friendship and understanding among the member states.

About 20 delegates from 7 SAARC member countries are attending the meeting. They will discuss further improvement and improved cooperation in developing the telecommunication sectors in their respective countries.

Algeria

Bendjedid Appoints New Chief of Staff

LD1711113088 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 17/11/88 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid appointed yesterday the Major General Abdellah Belhouchet, as counsellor at the Presidency of the Republic for the military affairs on another turn [as received], the president of the Republic nominated General Khaled Nezar, chief of staff of the People's National Army (APN), General Lamine Zeroual deputy chief of staff, commander of the land forces.

Reports Issued on 'Excesses' of October Events

LD1611214888 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] We are going straight over to Clare Arsenaud-Lers in Algiers, where the report requested by the authorities on what is euphemistically called the excesses during the month of October there has just been published:

[Arsenaud-Lers] The Algerian Human Rights League has received 228 statements from people who were directly or indirectly victims of the October riots. The number 228 may seem modest in relation to the figures already submitted. However, taking into account the fear, which always accounts for victims, the number is in fact logical.

These witnesses talked about the conditions of their arrest, carried out quite illegally. For some their interrogation was accompanied by brutality which even members of their family present suffered. Some witnesses are still unable, even today, to state where they were held and by whom. Fifty-one people stated they were tortured with most abject means were used and are mentioned in the league's report. Thirteen families reported a family member missing, and despite the searches carried out by the league none has thus far been found.

To this catalogue of horrors we must also add information stating that doctors attended torture sessions, thus helping to keep the torture victim in an appropriate state. [as heard]

Less shocking, but just as troubling, is the second report published by the league concerning the failings of the media during the October events. Particularly critical, this report refuses to restrict itself to the current period and states that in fact journalists have been prevented from doing their job since 1962. Among several recommendations, the league stresses the need for a rapid review of all regulations on information in Algeria.

These two reports are now on the desks of the concerned authorities, and the league now awaits a specific response.

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks at African Party Conference

NC1511131888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0837 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak inaugurating the Second Congress of the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Your Excellency President Abdou Diouf; representatives of African parties; ladies and gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Egypt as dear brothers, loyal partners, and dear companions in the African humanitarian struggle.

As we inaugurate this important meeting of the Council of African Socialist and Democratic Parties Association, and its conference on the nonaligned policy, it gives us overwhelming happiness to meet with our dear brother His Excellency President Abdou Diouf [applause] of sister Senegal, chairman of the association, and the representatives of the parties of the association in their second home, Egypt. It also gives us pleasure that you selected Cairo to host this fraternal meeting which undoubtedly enhances our present common experience, enriches our unified vision of the future, and gives form to our conceptions in the interest of our countries and the rights of our peoples to enjoy their share of progress and participate in the international march toward a new, more just and safe world.

The Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties embodies the solid desire of the African people to bring together all parties, to mobilize all efforts, and blend all energies in a single crucible. In this, it is loyal to its responsibilities toward the desired African future.

Our parties, which embrace the African masses which are eager to achieve development and progress, are today more than ever required to join forces for the sake of struggle and victory. The ties of fraternity, the one destiny, and the great challenges and complicated problems facing us, make it incumbent on us to focus efforts to develop bridges of understanding among the countries and peoples of the continent. They also make it necessary for our parties to dedicate themselves completely to performing their duty with an unshakable self-confidence, a strong belief in our good peoples, and an unceasing aspiration for the future which is not discouraged by obstacles.

Today, our parties bear a major message because they have pledged to be at the forefront of the fight for our common goals. They are armed with a strong faith, a close association with the masses, and the ability to express their aspirations, dreams and hopes through serious action, scientific guidelines and truthfulness.

The most important issues facing our continent in the current stage are those economic crises which are represented in the accumulated development problems of our developing countries. These crises are aggravated by drought and desertification, lack of available resources, an unstable world economic system, and the unjust terms of international trade. Added to this are diminishing development assistance and poor investments by advanced countries in developing African countries. This has ultimately led to the aggravation of African countries' indebtedness, decreasing food and machinery imports, the spread of famine and malnourishment, and the recession of efforts to overcome poverty, sickness, and backwardness.

This great challenge requires a collective effort proportionate to the sublime goal which we undertook to establish African economic integration by the year 2000. This goal was outlined in the Lagos work plan, which I had the honor to participate in creating.

Time has proven it necessary for us all to continue action to consolidate the concept of self-reliance, on the individual and universal levels, through doubling economic cooperation within the African group. It is in nobody's interest that the volume of trade among African countries represents only 4 percent of their foreign trade, when we can gain much if we give top priority to trade among ourselves. Egypt has done much in this field and it intends to carry on to the end.

Egypt, which raised the banner of political liberation in Africa in the 1950's, is the same Egypt which believes in the unified destiny of the peoples of the continent. It spares no effort to achieve success for our joint efforts to face the economic danger threatening us all. Our National Democratic Party always honors its promise and its commitment to take part in all efforts to achieve self-sufficiency, welfare and prosperity for all African people.

Our parties, which are linked to the people with ties of love and loyalty, have to direct their attention to the masses with modesty and open-mindedness, so that they can analyze their ideas and aspirations and initiate a dialogue which would enrich knowledge and open doors to genuine and innovative solutions to development problems in our countries. This can be achieved through effective involvement in realistic life, stirring up the powers of popular participation by millions of Africans and avoiding haughtiness and indulgence in theoretical slogans which have no relation to reality.

Apart from economic backwardness, there are past vestiges which have left several dark spots in our hearts. These spots now require tremendous efforts in the educational and cultural fields, so that we can free the African man from all invisible fetters still curbing his freedom.

Our great continent is rich with civilizations, cultures and human resources, in addition to its inherent abundant wealth and great power. We are certain that the horizons of the year 2000 will shine brightly in Africa, so long as there are men who are capable, with their action and willpower, of making the future and realizing the aspirations of the African people, who are eager to achieve welfare, prosperity, peace and security.

Undoubtedly, the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties is one agency for the collective action that we seek to spread and consolidate not only among the cadres of our political parties but also among the women's and youth cadres and active elements in various fields in our developing African societies. In addition to domestic construction battles, on which our joint attention is focused and which are the axis of our mutual cooperation, African and world peace is the ideal environment which we seek to bring about to safeguard the progress and development which we wish to achieve. The nonaligned policy is the common denominator of the foreign policy of all the African countries, and it is the path that these countries follow in their dealings in the theater of international politics.

The Nonaligned Movement, which represents a tremendous moral force in the international arena, has aimed since its foundation to stand against the division of the world into hostile blocs and alliances. This movement also expressed and still expresses the Third World nations' aspirations for freedom and progress, and it contributes to democratizing international relations.

Thus, the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties today is at a historical crossroads. The entire world is passing through a transitional phase to a new century and perhaps from one age to another. In our opinion, the pioneer African parties, which are represented here today, must examine this great development, the effects of which will be noticed throughout the world. They will then be able to lead African public opinion so that it may keep pace with the process of development, and enhance it in a manner that will achieve the African peoples' interests and preserve their rights in this changing and developing world.

Holding a conference of the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties on nonaligned policy undoubtedly comes in the nick of time. Whether from motive, with African countries representing half the members of the Nonaligned Movement, or from timing, with the world witnessing successive developments which we cannot let go by as we stand watching as mere observers. We have to participate effectively in these developments.

Fortunately, we now see active attempts to consolidate the effective role of the Nonaligned Movement after more than 25 years since its creation, and now that its membership includes two-thirds of the countries of the

world and more than half its population. On this occasion, I can only salute the thought and the role of the early pioneers who carried the torch of the Nonaligned Movement with a honest historic perception, penetrating vision, a fighting spirit which does not miss, and a correct understanding of the present and the future.

Hence, the movement tended to work relentlessly to end domination, discrimination, exploitation, and inequality. It has also worked to develop the freedom to express the genuine national heritage with its culture and civilization, and to establish a new system for international relations based on independence, equality, justice, and cooperation among all countries. The ultimate aim has been to establish man's rights and basic freedoms.

The African parties believe in and commit themselves to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, which takes the course of dialogue and negotiations before confrontation and collision, and calls for resolving international disputes peacefully in accordance with the UN and OAU Charters and the provisions of international law. It is the movement which is always determined and solid in confronting repression, hegemony, imperialism, and racism.

Dear brothers and friends, current world events will constitute a foundation for new international relations and a totally different era which will perhaps coincide with the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, from which we are separated by a few remaining years. In my opinion, we can look forward to a developed and dynamic international order which might contrast with the present international order, which was established on the debris of the Second World War. For this reason, we, the Third World countries, particularly the member states of the Nonaligned Movement, must rise to the level of events and very accurately analyze current developments so that we may with equal accuracy predict future events. We might have a certain viewpoint on this matter and a clearly defined position on these circumstances. In this respect, I propose:

First, the settlement of regional problems must be just and all parties to the conflict must participate in it. No party should be disregarded, particularly when this party is the one most concerned with the crisis and is its victim at the same time. On the other hand, I see no wisdom in focusing on some regional problems to the exclusion of others. If there is an international tendency to resolve regional disputes, let that encompass all such disputes without exception and without recourse to priorities proceeding from the interests of a limited number of countries that are incapable of expressing the ambitions and needs of the entire international family as an integrated whole.

Second, it is only just, in line with curent political developments, to reconsider the international economic situation with regard to trade conditions, the transfer of technology, investment and loans, and the relationship between the prices of raw materials and manufactured products.

Third, the indebtedness issue, now at a very perilous stage, is an issue with political, economic, and social dimensions. If we are to embark on the establishment of a new world, this new world cannot be based on a fragile economic structure within which the indebtedness issue forms a tremendous burden that forces the majority of countries to remain hostage to commitments that prevent them from growth and progress. Indeed, these commitments make the maintenance of existing standards a very difficult matter. I can say, without exaggeration, that if the current situation continues without a serious confrontation of the implications for the present and future, all our conditions will be destined to collapse. This requires that the indebtedness issue be given priority treatment on the agenda of the current international community.

It is worth noting that the OAU surpassed other organizations when it called on the Nonaligned Movement last May to begin an evaluation process of the international situation and to study the effects of the above mentioned developments on Third World countries at present and in the future. Thus, the OAU was the first international or regional organization that viewed future developments with such a level of seriousness and alertness. When the African summit called on the Nonaligned Movement to resume playing its historic role as the true spokesman of the Third World, it was actually calling on this movement to reconsider its course and the method of its work and to rise up to the level of the major events which take place in the world.

It is no longer acceptable for the Nonaligned Movement to continue to uphold its old slogans and concepts, or to fall victim to the polarization policy—this at a time when the big powers are trying to put an end to such a policy and to open a new page, the importance of which it is not possible to diminish. This position left its effect on the Nonaligned Movement and this was felt at the recent Nonaligned Movement ministerial conference in Cyprus.

I am confident that your discussions at the conference, which is devoted to studying nonalignment and new changes, will enable us to embark with courage and clarity on an extensive study of the future developments needed for our movement's surge toward the 21st century. Without study and examination it will not be possible for us to translate our correct experience into persistent work and fruitful effort for our peoples.

While I wish you success in your work, I am confident that the continuation of our work together within a framework of joint solidarity and responsibility will bring us closer to a more humane world that strengthens our peoples' faith in themselves and in their creative abilities to create a better future.

May God grant us success and guide our steps. Victory for our glorious continent and our struggling peoples. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Tabah, Debts

JN1311211488 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 88 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by AL-JUMHURIYAH staff in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Question: What about the implementation of the Tabah verdict?

Answer: The verdict has fixed a commitment and a date for the implementation. Even before the verdict was issued, we announced that we would abide by the court's ruling. Israel contacted us and asked for some time because of the Israeli elections. We agreed and requested the court to extend its tenure until the end of this month.

I would like to say in this regard that the Israelis have said in their message to the court that they will carry out its verdict. They consolidated this stand by official statements before and after the elections that they accept ruling and will implement the ruling.

Negotiations between us and Israel will begin within the next 2 weeks to discuss the implementation procedures. The principle is always: Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah cannot be undermined. Talks on the implementation of the verdict will deal with issues related to tourists' entrance into and departure from Tabah as well as the sale and management of the hotel. [passage omitted]

Question: During the last few years, Egyptian diplomacy was marked by equanimity and wisdom. It restored relations with the Arabs and returned Tabah. It also established balanced relations with the two superpowers and was active within the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO, and the OAU. Is it not high time for a new stage marked by the diplomacy of offense and initiative?

Answer: I shall first talk about Egyptian-Arab relations and their imoportance. Egypt is part of the Arab nation, and the relationship between the two is organic. It is inconceivable that a sick organ in the Arab body will have no effect on the rest of the body.

There were differences in viewpoints, accompanied by agitation which led to some developments that we know. However, we should believe that this stage came to an end with the restoration of relations with all Arab states (except Syria, Libya, Algeria, and Lebanon). It will be recalled that despite the absence of official relations, our ties with most Arab states never ceased. Moreover, never has the movement of individuals and workers between Egypt and the Arab world been as active as it was during the estrangement period. At that time, some said the Egyptian diplomatic relations were indispensable. I agree with them, because diplomatic relations are an indication of good ties among countries. In this regard, we must recall with appreciation the stance taken by Jordan, which restored relations with Egypt unilaterally in September 1984. President Mubarak will never forget this stance by King Husayn. November 1987, in which the Amman summit was held, was the end of this stage.

Nevertheless, I would like to indicate here that many changes have occurred. The stage of absence and estrangement underlined the presence of a vacuum resulting from Egypt's absence, and Egypt's return was essential to fill this vacuum. We have no such major differences with other countries that prevent understanding and exchange of viewpoints. There are no obstacles to the establishment of understanding with Syria, Libya, Algeria, or Lebanon. I believe that there is now greater understanding of the Egyptian position.

Experience proved that Egypt has not distanced itself from the Arabs, and we faced more than one test in this regard. President Mubarak proved that he is committed to all the policies he declared.

Question: It has been noticed that some good Egyptian initiatives are launched a little late. This happened with our position on the recent events in Algiers. We announced our position 3 days after the beginning of the events.

Answer: Such events need time to be assessed. However, our response came from the president himself. He urged the Algerian people to be calm and to preserve their properties. Algeria's response to our position was good, because we believe that Algeria is a fraternal country, and we wish it stability and security. Algeria was satisfied with this position. President Bendjedid's cable to our great writer Najib Mahfuz expressed this satisfaction. Algeria also sent an able ambassador to us, and we sent it our Ambassador Husayn Amin to assume his office there.

Question: Can we say that there are no differences between us and the countries that have not yet resumed relations with us?

Answer: I would like to affirm that there are still differences of opinion regarding Camp David. However, we have understanding with them despite these differences in viewpoints. We should disagree in a civilized way, and we should respect each other's viewpoints. For example, we welcome Libya's decision to end the media campaign against Egypt, and we hope that it will not be a temporary step. We also hope that the Egyptian workers expelled from Libya will be compensated. I discussed this issue with the director of the ILO office 2 years ago, and I am still discussing the issue. We hope that the Libyans will compensate the Egyptian workers. However, the negotiations are continuing. [passage omitted]

Question: Why did Egypt not launch an initiative to resolve the Lebanese problem?

Answer: President Mubarak called for an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese problem. However, it is the Arab countries, and not us, which should decide. We launch initiatives and moves. The Al-'Aqabah tripartite summit is one of the outcomes of this active move. President Mubarak succeeded in holding a meeting between King Husayn and 'Arafat. I would like to assert that the meeting was successful. King Husayn and 'Arafat exerted positive and honest efforts to find ways to push relations forward and achieve coordination. Our actions are characterized by realistic moves without slogans. We say only what we believe. [passage omitted]

Question: Israel was created under special circumstances and for a special mission. The international detente and growing number of big powers have stripped this mission of its importance. How do you view the current situation?

Answer: Israel exists, and it is a reality. When Israel offers peace it does not offer it to serve the Arabs, but because it needs peace. We also need peace. Peace does not serve others but everyone. No country can live under occupation, hegemony, and war in an age of international detente, which urges a settlement and peace in the Middle East. However, we should begin with ourselves.

We should know what we want from the peaceful settlement. This is what happened in Al-'Aqabah and in Baghdad as a result of President Mubarak's initiative. They reached an understanding of and an agreement on confederation and Partitrion Resolution No. 181, which was issued by the United Nations in 1947, approved by all countries, and established the Jewish state. It was Israel's birth certificate and legitimacy, just as it was the birth certificate of the Palestinian state.

It stipulates the establishment of two states in Palestine, a Jewish and an Arab state. One was established; the other should be established under the law. The problem now is the border issue. The Palestinians say they are talking about legitimacy and the establishment of the Palestinian state, and not about the borders in 1967.

Question: Israel could reject all this in light of the fait accompli to which it clings?

Answer: Everything, even rejection, is possible. Everything is subject to negotiation. Had Israel accepted from the beginning, there would not have been a problem. We are negotiating from a position of strength, especially since we have the law on our side, that is, Resolution No 181. The resolution cannot be invalidated by prescription or disavowed by the big powers, which approved it. This resolution cannot become null and void even had the Arabs rejected it at the time it was issued.

Question: What cards do we hold in the negotiations so that they would not proceed at our expense?

Answer: The strong postion we currently enjoy. Following the 1967 setback, our state of affairs was very difficult. However, the 1973 war has changed the equation. We gained a great deal in terms of strength, preparedness, and planning to liberate our land. We also must not discount what we possess. We have all the requisites of strength and success. As an Arab, I must surely be aware of this. We must use this not for the sake of war but to regain rights. We must ask ourselves, as a broad Arab front, about the objective we want to achieve, leaving behind slogans? The best course at present is the realistic method, which clearly defines the objectives to be attained.

Question: But there still remains the question of Israeli military superiority, which we should view with some concern, particularly after Israel launched its military satellite. How do you assess the future of peace under the canopy of an impaired military balance ?

Answer: This is an important point, and I am glad that you raised it. I will reply to your question by citing U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz commented on this Israeli superiority by telling the Israelis: Israeli military power does not guarantee Israel's security, and Israel's security can only be guaranteed by peace. Such talk coming from the secretary of state of the country that protects Israel sums up the entire situation.

The question is neither one of military power nor an impaired military balance. The question is far more reaching than this. When Shultz spoke about peace as the guarantor of Israel's security and existence, he also referred to another point, that Israel is facing a time bomb, the population issue. The imbalance here is very serious. The balance we mean is the population balance. The Palestinians will ultimately have the upper hand in this respect. Therefore, Shultz here draws Israel's attention to this point because he is concerned about Israel and not the opposite.

Question: Does this concern over Israel to which you have referred in Shultz' statements mean that the United States will seek a solution that primarily takes Israel's interests into consideration?

Answer: We reject any solution that does not conform to our interests. This is the most important point on which any negotiations should be based. The Palestinians initiated a dialogue with the Israeli forces of peace without any fear. In the past, this used to be viewed as high treason.

Many new changes are taking place, as well as many new developments. We must not be governed by rigid equations. We have principles and objectives, and we must calmly seek to attain these objectives while continuing to remain committed to our principles.

Question: Some people say that bets on Peres went to Shamir in the end. By this they are pointing at 'Arafat's messages to the Israelis and to the Arabs in the territories occupied in 1948 as well as at the Al-'Aqabah summit. How do you read the results of the Israeli elections?

Answer: We have followed the results of the Israeli elections. We believe that they represent the will of the Israeli voters. The matter now is in the hands of the various parties to form the new government.

Despite this, Egypt believes that it is natural to deal with any new Israeli government chosen by the people to assume power in the country, as this is an internal Israeli affair. Egypt is keen to emphasize the need to walk the path of peace to achieve stability in the region. For its part, Egypt will exert every effort in this regard. It also hopes that the new government will respond to this trend to achieve the interests of the regional states and peoples to live in peace as well as to resolve the Palestine question justly, direct all efforts toward development and prosperity, and eliminate violent acts.

I do not want to predict things that have not happened. In today's dialogue, we follow up, monitor, and avoid going through academic analysis.

Question: To what extent does the economic problem constitute a burden on Egyptian diplomacy? And how can diplomacy contribute to development?

Answer: I am glad to hear this question because diplomacy and development are twins. Today, we talk about the diplomacy of development. Egyptian diplomats abroad are Egypt's ears and eyes. They know our needs and try to improve our relations with all countries to achieve fruitful cooperation that contributes to development in Egypt. Politics play a big role in development. I believe that our distinguished and broad relations with the United States illustrates how politics aid development. This also applies to the rest of the friendly countries that meet the requirements of development in Egypt. All our ambassadors abroad are authorized to exert such efforts, which are a major part of their mission, not only in the economic field but also in the transfer of technology.

The ambassadors' efforts are also exerted in the cultural field. I believe that Japan's building the opera is a great example of this cooperation. Had it not been for distinguished relations and awareness of Egypt's position and role on the part of Japan, they would not have offered us this edifice. Therefore, we appreciate Japan's cooperation.

Egypt possesses huge national resources. And investments are the path to exploiting these resources for the sake of development, which occupies an important position in our foreign policy.

Question: Since we are speaking about the diplomacy of development and equal relations with the state, does not the debt problem constitute a major worry for Egyptian diplomacy? Do you agree to the formation of a unified debtors front in the face of a creditors front?

Answer: Debts are not an Egyptian problem. This is a worldwide problem. Debtor countries experience the same problems as creditor countries. The latter have an interest in not fettering the debtor with shackles that will prevent him from paying. Creditor countries should not impose harsh conditions that will obstruct payment. They must not ask for high interest rates. They must waive the fines on arrears and their interest rates.

Many international and regional efforts are currently being exerted to settle this issue. There are many countries that are assisting us with the IMF, the World Bank, and the Paris Club.

For our part, if the IMF sets unacceptable conditions on us, we immediately reject them. But at the same time it is difficult to set general conditions for all. It is difficult to make comparisons with others.

For example, we in Egypt can settle our debts. However, we are experiencing very special circumstances, such as the sharp drop in oil prices. What can we do to tackle the drop in oil prices to $10 per barrel from the previous $35? A drop of $1 per barrel in the price of oil costs us $100 million instead of $70 million when oil prices dropped to $15 a barrel. Therefore, the IMF and the World Bank must show more understanding. The truth is that their conditions will have a harsh impact on the Egyptian consumer. They must understand that reforms must take place gradually. They must also realize that the loans were allocated to major projects.

Question: Some say that the best course is to abstain from payment to salvage the economic situation not only for us but everyone?

Answer: I refuse to support this viewpoint because we respect our pledges and commitments. In any case, there are others who respect their commitments and alleviate the burdens. There are proposals to grant exemptions. There are some who are working to reach an understanding with the creditors through the Group of 77. The current stage is a very difficult one, and debts are an important part of the economic problem.

Once again, I would like to affirm that creditors have no interest in burdening the debtors and in making it impossible for them to pay. The creditor country loses nothing if it extends the grace period it has granted to a debtor country that has been experiencing special circumstances over the past 10 or 15 years, especially since it is aware that the revenues from the investment of these loans in agriculture or industry need a long time to materialize. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Support Palestinian State
NC1611181388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian opposition parties have welcomed and declared their support for the Palestinian state whose establishment was announced by the PNC yesterday.

The leaders of these parties agreed the establishment of the Palestinian state is a positive step that requires popular and governmental Arab support and international backing. They called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility of protecting the establishment of this state. The leaders stressed that the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories will facilitate the fulfillment of the dream of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories through the pressure it is exerting on Israel and its supporters.

Cairo Press on Proclamation of Palestinian State
NC1711093888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Thursday's Cairo newspapers agree that the PNC's recognition of UN Security Council Resolution Nos 242 and 338 has completely blocked the way for any objection or argument which could be made by Yitzhaq Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc and Israeli prime minister-designate.

The papers affirm that this recognition has opened the way for dialogue between the United States and the PLO after successive U.S. administrations have made their ability to engage in fair and positive activity to solve the issue contingent on the PLO's official recognition of the two resolutions.

AL-AHRAM affirms that with this recognition, the PNC, in a bold step, solved the "jigsaw puzzle" which the Americans have put together to make things impossible. It has also opened the door, which has been closed for too long, to dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO.

The paper adds that the Palestinians were able to master difficulty with a great political step, like their military transition from the stage of individual or suicide actions against the occupation forces to the great militant uprising.

The paper refers to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's remark that the PNC's acceptance of Resolution No 242 will be a step forward. It also says that it remains for U.S. President-elect George Bush, who will carry on after President Reagan with Republican party policy, to grasp this thread and work with it in a completely new spirit. Thus he will be able to successfully carry out his policies and remove any suspicions that may surround U.S. foreign policy objectives.

The paper calls on Bush to begin his term with a serious calculated effort, given the atmosphere has become positive for establishing bridges with the PLO and working with it openly for convening an international peace conference. This effort is especially called for after a difficult U.S. condition was met openly by a responsible body, unequivocally and irrevocably. [passage omitted]

Concluding its commentary, the paper affirms that the next Palestinian moves will be more decisive, explicit, and defined in view of the new international responsibility.

AL-AKHBAR affirms that the historic proclamation of an independent Palestinian state has blocked the way for any objection or argument of Yitzhaq Shamir, leader of the Likud Bloc and the Israeli prime minister-designate. Israel will be almost isolated in opposing the state's establishment, which is based on the unequivocal UN resolution on partitioning Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

In its Thursday edition, the paper says that the declaration confirms the PLO's determination to enter the peace process and to convene an international peace conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, which contain the principles for establishing peace in the Middle East.

The declaration, the paper notes, is chracterized by complete objectivity, moderation, commitment to international legality, and a desire for peace and peaceful coexistence to prevail between this new state and other countries, including Israel. At the same time, the declaration renounces all types of terrorism and points out that the new state will be founded on democratic principles and will respect the UN Charter.

Furthermore, the declaration deprives Israel of the allegations it has been circulating for years against the Palestinians, namely that they refuse to recognize UN Resolution No 242, that the PLO practices terrorism, and that the Palestinians seek to destroy the state of Israel. The declaration also strips Tel Aviv's leaders of all their excuses for rejecting peace efforts.

The paper emphasizes that the United States, Israel's main and greatest ally, will face an extremely embarassing situation should it insist on its unjust stand toward the PLO, which is recognized worldwide as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The paper concludes by saying that this historical declaration refutes all the pretexts upon which Washington has based its unjust position.

Syrian, Israeli Stands on Palestinians Derided
JN1611141888 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Similar Stands"]

[Text] Israel wants to turn the PNC resolutions into ink on paper. In advance, it has announced its rejection of these resolutions. In this regard, it agrees with the Syrian "Arab" president's stand.

This early unequivocal rejection, of course, harbors disdain to the owners of the cause and their legitimate right to say their word, only a word. This means that Israel and Syria seek to replace the Palestinians in reality and in rights together. In other words, they seek to usurp

the land and the legitimacy. The astonishing thing is that the two sides, Israel and Syria, are not only in agreement regarding the essence, but also regarding the form. Israel believes that the Palestinian uprising consists of mere disturbances caused by troublemakers.

Syria, through its president, believes that the Palestinian plans of independence are "defeatist" ones. This means that, in both cases, the Palestinians are legally minors who deserve to be punished and deterred for their recklessness. Further close scrutiny will indicate that these base, unjust stands are attributed to greedy ambitions. As it has become clear through its overt plans, in addition to its exposed covert plans, Israel wants to annihilate the entire Palestinian existence through seizing the land and expelling its citizens, as a transitional stage to achieve Greater Israel. On its part, Syria wants to liquidate the Palestinian entity by dispersing it and annexing it to the plan of Greater Syria. Exactly as Israel is doing in Lebanon, Syria seeks to destroy the pan-Arab dignity with the objective of facilitating the partition and annexation of Lebanon.

Regrettably, the successive events in the Palestinian march have revealed to the whole world the harmony between the Syrian and Israeli cards. These events have also increased the involvement of and exposed the conspirators who do not have even a sense of responsibility or any intention of redressing their stands. However, this is the course of history where the heroic struggle for independence by any people sheds light on the dens and strongholds of colonialism and forces them out into the open with all their ugliness and tyranny, regardless of their attempts to hide behind false slogans.

Nevertheless, the peace issue, which concerns all the peoples in the region and the world, imposes on all parties, regardless of their ambitions, a certain level of objective commitment that they must abide by sooner or later, in the interest of their peoples, and perhaps also in the interest of their governments. Otherwise, the explosion of the accumulated events would force them to do so. Who cannot respond willingly might do so by force.

PNC Document Praised as 'Masterpiece'

NC1611201388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Even though world political circles have been waiting some time for the decision declaring the Palestinian state, the decision has caused a whirlpool of varying reactions. From the start, we say that the PNC was a pinnacle of flexible demopcratic practice and that the document declaring the establishment of the state was a masterpiece of distinguished political literature.

The historic document and the PNC debates and resolutions have decided issues around which there has been a long running dispute. First, Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 have been recognized by a majority of the PNC. This constitutes a new Palestinian starting point for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, this shows a clear change of course by the Palestinian groups.

Second, the principal outlines of the democratic Palestinian state—which believes in international charters, human rights, peaceful coexistence, respect for laws, renunciation of terrorism, and nondiscrimination between humans on the basis of race, sex, religion, or color—have made this image of the Palestinian state fully acceptable even to those who have not accepted the notion of its establishment.

Third, the Palestinian state believes in resolving international and regional problems through peaceful means and in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions. This means that resorting to logic and the recourse to negotiations on the basis of equality is the essence of cooperation with others to resolve problems and differences.

It must be admitted that the PNC was the epitome of wisdom when it recognized at this stage the existence of Israel within the framework of UN resolutions and even though it had considered this to be its last card in the bargaining over this long-running conflict. The use of this card at this time is evidence the PLO is more self-confident than at any other time and that it has other cards it can use at the appropriate time.

Reactions of support and recognition of the Palestinian state are coming from here and there, but the eyes of the Palestinians are on Washington and Moscow to ascertain their stand vis-a-vis the state. Undoubtedly, the signs from these two capitals show a minutely calculated expectation in Moscow and a positive acceptance in Washinton.

The flexibility of the Palestinian stand has opened a very good opportunity for George Bush and his new secretary of state—an opportunity not given to any former American—to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict amid new conditions that blunt the edge of Israeli intransigence.

Sudan

DUP, Garang Movement Sign Peace Agreement

Talks Summarized

JN1711063888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 16 Nov (SUNA)—The final draft agreement between John Garang's Movement and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] will be signed here today. The two parties have been holding talks about this agreement since the beginning of this week.

The two parties' joint committee continued its work yesterday and charted the final draft agreement. It held a morning session which lasted about 9 hours and another evening session to iron out differences and come up with a formula that is acceptable to all parties. Informed sources announced that the committee discussed all matters related to the agreeement and the subsequent

cease-fire, the convocation of the national constitutional conference, the cancellation of the state of emergency, and the delivery of food stuffs to the affected people in southern Sudan.

The sources said the DUP leader, who is conducting these talks with the Movement, is likely to announce the agreement at a press conference he will hold later today.

'Text' of Peace Agreement

NC1711121388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (MENA)—The AL-ITTIHADI newspaper, mouthpiece of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], published this morning the full text of the peace agreement signed last night in Addis Ababa between DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

The agreement includes four major clauses and four subclauses. It stresses the need to convene the national constitutional conference on 31 December and to form a national preparatory committee to prepare for the national constitutional conference.

The following is the text of the peace agreement on southern Sudan:

We deeply understand the sufferings endured by the masses of our patient and peace-aspiring Sudanese people. We believe in the unity of the people and the integrity of the soil. We reject all the worn-out policies that aim to propagate war, destruction, and all kinds of distress, that cause a rift in the unity of ranks. We believe in the need for continuous efforts to enrich and bolster democratic life throughout the beloved Sudan. The two parties share the conviction that true peace in Sudan should not be delayed any longer. We believe that, because our national problems are of ethnic origin, they can only be solved through a serious, continuing, and clear-cut dialogue among all the Sudanese political forces, on an equal footing within the framework of the forthcoming national constitutional conference. Therefore, following a frank and sincerely patriotic dialogue, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and Movement and the DUP, at this serious juncture in the history of our country, hereby conclude this agreement and declare it to the masses of our Sudanese people.

Since the convening of the national constitutional conference is a pressing national need that requires relentless and incessant efforts on the part of all the Sudanese political forces to pave the way for such a conference, the two parties hereby fully agree that the essential factors needed to create the appropriate atmosphere for this conference are as follows:

First: The movement's firm position is to cancel the September laws and replace them with the 1974 laws. However, in view of the current circumstances and out of our eagerness to convene the national constitutional conference, we hereby agree with the DUP, until the convocation of the national constitutional conference, to freeze all the clauses related to the borders and other pertinent clauses included in the September 1983 laws. No laws with clauses that refer to the above clauses shall be enacted until the national constitutional conference is convened and the issue of the laws is finally settled.

Second: To abrogate all the military agreements concluded between Sudan and other countries which affect the national sovereignty.

Third: To end the state of emergency.

Fourth: To declare a cease-fire.

A national preparatory committee will be formed to fix the date for convening the national constitutional conference, draft its agenda, and determine its venue and procedures. The committee should hold its first meeting immediately after it is formed.

The two sides agreed to convene the national constitutional conference in a place to be decided by the national preparatory committee. The place should enjoy all security guarantees acceptable to all parties concerned. The two sides also agreed on the need to convene the conference on 31 December in the event the provisions stipulated in this agreement have been implemented in a manner satisfying the parties concerned.

The two parties appeal to the Sudanese political forces to immediately join this devout national effort for the sake of the country's peace and stability. This agreement was signed in Addis Ababa yesterday.

A joint communique was issued in Addis Ababa following the signing of this agreement last night, expressing thanks to Ethiopian President Mengistu for facilitating the mission of the two sides for meeting and conducting dialogue.

The communique appealed to the international community to give assistance to the famine-stricken people in Sudan.

Recognition of Palestinian State Declared

NC1711101188 Cairo MENA in English 0957 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 17 (MENA)—Sudan officially declared today its recognition of the Palestinian state. An official statement released by the Sudanese Government following the cabinet meeting last night under Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi welcomed the Palestinian state as a member of the Arab League fold and in international community. The statement pointed out that Sudan abides by its stance that preserves all the Palestinians' rights and rejects aggression on Palestine's land and people.

Kuwait

'Final Exercises' of GCC Air Forces Postponed

LD1511092288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 15 Nov 88

[By Walid al-Suray]

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Defence Ministry announced here Tuesday the postponement of the final exercises of the "Peninsula Falcon 2-88". The live ammunition exercises were scheduled to be held here today.

An official source at the ministry told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that the final part of the exercise, which groups units of the Gulf Cooperation Council states air forces, have been postponed due to current bad weather conditions in the country. He added that the maneuvers final parts will be held here tomorrow, Wednesday.

The "Peninsula Falcon 2-88" military exercises started November 5 with the participation of 44 different types of warplanes and the Kuwaiti land forces, which represent the peninsula shield force.

Defense Minister on Exercise

LD1611224288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1717 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 16 (KUNA)—Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah Wednesday commended the standard of GCC airforce pilots as reflected during the "Peninsula Falcon 2-88" maneuvers concluded here today.

Speaking to reporters after attending the final project of the maneuvers today in which air force contingents from the six GCC states participated, Shaykh Nawwaf hailed "the advance level" shown by the Gulf participant pilots. He said those distinct standards have reflected their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states' keenness in providing all means for upgrading the Gulf armed forces capabilities in order to attain the highest levels of arts and tactics of fighting.

The Kuwaiti defence minister also saluted the role of his counterparts in the GCC states in this connection and said the GCC defence ministers are exerting great efforts for raising and promoting armed forces capabilities and standards. He indicated that the "Peninsula Falcon 2-88" exercise had grouped a big number of sophisticated fighter planes which were not present in previous maneuvers held in Oman Sultanate.

44 fighter crafts equipped with ammunitions as well as contingents from Kuwait's land forces took part in the exercises which started here Nov. 5 and lasted for ten days during which the participant troops carried out three stages of the maneuvers.

The final project of the "Peninsula Falcon 2-88" exercises here today was also attended by defence ministry under-secretary [name indistinct] assistant undersecretaries, head of the military committee at the GCC General Secretariat Major General Yusuf al-Madani, heads of participant airforce units, Kuwait's senior army officers and GCC ambassadors to Kuwait.

Several GCC senior military officers also commended the maneuvers and the high levels reflected by participant units.

In his remarks to reporters today, Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf stated that the "Peninsula Falcon 3" maneuvers' venue has not yet been fixed.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Congratulates Bush on Election

JN1011135488 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty Sultan ibn Sa'id, may God preserve him, has sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency U.S. President-elect George Bush on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections. The cable reads as follows:

Mr George Bush, President-elect of the United States of America, Washington.

On your victory in the U.S. presidential elections, we are pleased to send you our heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes for success. We are certain that the close relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States will continue to develop in the interest of both friendly countries. We are also certain that the U.S. role in entrenching justice and peace will continue positively to enable the world to enjoy prosperity, stability, and a better life. With our best regards.

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id

Qatar

Cabinet Issues Statement Praising PNC Decision

JN1611144088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 16 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has announced its recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

The Qatari Cabinet issued a statement after its weekly meeting today under Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The statement welcomes this historic decision issued by the PNC in its extraordinary session held in Algiers especially to declare the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

The statement expresses true hopes that the heroic Palestinian people's struggle will be crowned by a clear victory and the realization of their noble goals to lead an independent and sovereign life on their soil with full liberty and complete dignity.

French Foreign Trade Minister Arrives 15 Nov

JN1511160288 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 15 (GNA)—French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch arrived here this morning from Baghdad on a two-day visit to Qatar in the context of a Gulf tour.

The French [as received] will have talks with Qatari Officials on means of boosting bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation especially in economic and trade fields. The French minister is accompanied by a number of senators, National Assembly members, leading economists, senior officials at the French Foreign Trade Ministry and representatives of major companies.

Meets With Amir

JN1511161888 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, Nov 15 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received in Doha French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch.

Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari and French Ambassador to Qatar Pierre Ariola attended the meeting.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY said the talks covered cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them in varying economic, trade and technical domains. The talks also covered the words of the fifth session of the joint Qatari French committee for economic and financial cooperation currently in session here. They also dealt with a number of issues of joint interest.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan on Ties With Iran, Defense Spending

JN1711091288 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Nov 88 pp 1, 4

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Excerpt] Iran must stop interfering in the affairs of Saudi Arabia if it wants to have diplomatic ties with the Kingdom, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said.

Prince Sultan, who is also the second deputy prime minister, told the ARAB TIMES that Iran must also respect the principles of Saudi Arabia. He said in an interview: "We restore relations only with those who respect our principles." Saudi Arabia severed its relations with Iran only because Saudi principles were contradicted, he added.

"Even if we restore our relations with Iran, our principles will remain unchanged." He said that Iran has to abide by its quota of pilgrims and must not convert the pilgrimage into a political occasion.

Prince Sultan denied that Saudi Arabia's defence spending is huge. He said: "Saudi Arabia is not a small country, it is simply a continent. It has 28 airports, many cities and above all, huge and long borders that must be well defined and protected.

"Saudi Arabia is also the citadel of Islam and any harm against it will harm Islam and Islamic countries as a whole," he said.

"Saudi Arabia must be a land of security and peace and has to spend the amounts it is spending on defence."

If Saudi armament programmes are compared with similar programmes in many other countries, the outlay of Saudi funding will be very small, the prince said.

"If tension is reduced in the Gulf, spending on arms may be reduced or defence programmes may be scaled down in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states," Prince Sultan said adding, "Saudi military strength is also the strength of its sister states in the Gulf.

"The Almighty Allah has honoured the Kingdom with the presence of holy sites. Our strength is for the whole region and it is our duty to protect the great principles of Islam," the prince said.

Discussing Chinese arms purchased by Saudi Arabia, Prince Sultan affirmed that the arms are for defensive purposes. He said, Saudi Arabia is not an expansionist country, but reaffirmed that in case of any aggression, the Saudis are quite capable of defending their land.

Prince Sultan pointed out that the war in the Gulf ended because both parties deeply felt that the war should be stopped. Iraq seeks peace from a position of strength and Iran also wants peace. "The most important aspect now," the prince said, "is to restore friendly relations between Iran and Iraq and between Iran and other states of the area."

"We should not be affected by the setback in the current talks between the two parties in Geneva, he said. The war lasted eight years and its consequences cannot be solved quickly. The war was senseless as it was between two Muslim countries and the loss is to Islamic power. We do hope that the Geneva talks will have the same ending as that of the war itself," he said.

Jeddah 'UKAZ Views New Agreement with PRC
PM1611113888 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
14 Nov 88 p2

[Editorial: "We And Beijing"]

[Excerpts] Any attempt by observers to understand the dimensions of the agreement between the Kingdom and the PRC to set up offices of trade representation in the two capitals must not be made in isolation from the following facts:

First, the step is not new; it is in fact an extension of deep-rooted trade and economic relations between the peoples of the Kingdom and the PRC. Therefore, the memorandum of understanding is an embodiment of growing interests between the two countries, which require an organized, practical formula—common among other states of the world.

Second, international and regional changes and the prevailing mood in international relations have crystallized that formula according to the principle of exchanging interests on a larger scale among the world's states, first and foremost on an economic and trade basis.

Third, the major change that has occurred in Chinese conditions has helped encourage the world's states to deal and cooperate with the PRC. This is because the changes have helped build bridges of confidence and cooperation on a clear basis, whereby economic interests are separate from ideologies. This is because the PRC itself has been convinced of the need to reconsider past experiments and change the nature of its relations with other states. It has practically and constantly emphasized respect for and commitment to the principle of equal and positive cooperation with others on sound and clear terms.

Fourth, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's policy gives precedence to stances over interests. In its relations with other states the Kingdom proceeds from the principle of cooperation with all the world's states on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in others' internal affairs and the principle of not taking any step at another party's expense, regardless of the volume of interest generated by any kind of cooperation with any other party in the world.

Fifth, the Kingdom does not rush matters. Nor does it seek any form of dialogue, cooperation, understanding, or coordination with other states without being convinced that such cooperation would not only serve both countries, but also encourage more cooperation with other states, ease tension, and assist integration on the basis of coexistence in order to focus on building and development, instead of perpetuating force and escalating fears at the expense of the peoples' prosperity.

Sixth, the Kingdom spares no effort in exploiting every available channel to perform reconciliatory roles among the states at all levels in order to establish a stable international community and maximum security and stability for the world's peoples.

In its political policy the Kingdom pursues the paths of peace and love—paths that perpetuate international cooperation on the basis of absolute confidence and common interest. This is because the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, which has in recent years encountered a number of active initiatives and contacts by others, realizes that its regional and international responsibility requires it to perform major positive roles beyond the confines of the region in order to take part in resolving the issues of peace, coexistence, and stability in the world. [passage omitted]

For all these reasons, the document of understanding signed between the Kingdom and the PRC can be seen as a positive, constructive, natural step in light of the considerations mentioned and the preceding objective assessment. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Receives Egypt's Al-Baz
JN1511142788 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, defense minister, received Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs. After the meeting, Dr Al-Baz told WAM that he conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Muhammad an oral message from Egyptian President His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, containing Egypt's viewpoint on a number of current Arab issues, including the ongoing Iraq-Iran peace negotiations and means to enhance security and stability in the region in light of the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war.

The message also contains Egypt's viewpoint on the latest developments in Lebanon and Middle East issues—including the declaration of a Palestinian state and means to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum expressed pride in the Egyptian role in the Arab arena and Egypt's support for the pan-Arab causes at all forums and on highest levels. His highness welcomed any joint Arab action to find just solutions to all issues pertaining to the Arab nation's unity and destiny.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets French Trade Minister

JN1611123688 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, UAE deputy prime minister, received in his office this morning Jean-Marie Rausch, French minister of foreign trade, and his delegation, which is currently visiting the country. His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad welcomed the French trade delegation and wished it every success in promoting bilateral relations. He also pointed to the close relations beteween the UAE and France and stressed the need to promote them in the interest of both friendly peoples.

His Highness Shaykh Hamdan voiced hope that during its chairmanship of the EEC next year, France will contribute to developing closer relations between the EEC and the GCC and that the EEC will exert further efforts to find a just solution to the Middle East problem to bring peace and stability to the region.

The French minister said that he conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad the greetings of French prime Minister Michel Rocard and the French Government's desire to promote friendly relations between the two countries—especially economic and trade relations—and to contribute to efforts to bring about peace and stability in the Gulf Region.

The French trade minister thanked His Highness Shaykh Hamdan for his patronage of the French commercial week in Abu Dhabi to promote trade relations beteween both countries. They also discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries, developments in the Middle East, and a number of issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Mubarak, Economy and Trade Ministry under secretary, and French Ambassador to the UAE (Hubert Collin de Vardier).

Omani Interior Minister Arrives 14 Nov

JN1411113988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib arrived in Abu Dhabi at noon today on a short visit to the UAE. The Omani minister will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on coordination and consultation between the GCC leaders to reinforce the march of the GCC.

The Omani minister was received upon arrival by Major General Hammud ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs.

Gives Message to President

JN1411141288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, today received a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman dealing with the continued coordination and consultations between the two leaders in order to serve and support the GCC's march.

Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib conveyed the message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah and Badr ibn Sa'ud discussed the latest developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas in general and relations between the UAE and Oman.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Makes Keynote Speech to Congress

JN1311121788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Keynote speech delivered by Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress (GPC), opening the fourth GPC conference at Al-Shawkani Hall at the Police Academy in Sanaa on 12 November—recorded]

[Text] We, in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and in the name of the people, open the work of the fourth GPC conference, which is being held under the slogan: "Popular participation on the road to democracy, development, and Yemeni unity." [applause]

Brother GPC members, it pleases me to welcome Brother Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi [applause] and the delegations of fraternal and friendly states, wishing them a good stay. We highly value their participation and our Yemeni people's participation in the fourth GPC conference to acquaint themselves with the experience of political action in our country and to acquaint themselves with our people's democratic choice. This choice is inspired by the will of the masses—the September masses who yearn to attain, democracy, justice, and progress. [applause] I am talking about this experience, which is one of the peculiarities of our people and a result of the struggles they have been waging throughout history.

This experience has come to embody our people's ambitions and aspirations regarding the achievement of further wellbeing and prosperity under the canopy of the

principles of the eternal revolution and that of our national charter [applause]. This charter paved the way for our democratic march and gave the chance to every Yemeni to participate in and contribute to forging the Yemen of freedom; the Yemen of pride; and the Yemen of progress, prosperity, and unity. [applause]

Brother GPC members, let me give the reasons for accelerating the convening of the conference before the set time in August. These reasons pertain to important events on the road to democracy witnessed by our country, the most important of which were the elections for the Consultative Council, the legislative authority, and our people's celebrations on the anniversaries of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions. [applause] Among these events is also the election of the administrative bodies of the local councils for cooperative development.

Our conference is being held to review many important issues. They demand that we all focus on them by demonstrating sufficient consideration and analysis to emerge from this conference with a promising outcome designed to push our political action forward through effective and progressive steps.

This conference is also being held under highly critical and extremely important Arab and international circumstances that place before the peoples of the entire world their responsibilities to work to attain peace, international detente, disarmament, which has become an urgent demand of mankind, and a just new international economic order designed to eliminate manifestations of injustice and hegemony and enable the world's peoples to live in security, stability, and peace.

Once again, I welcome all brothers and guests, be they Arab brothers or friends, wishing them a good stay. I also hope that this occasion will be a chance for them to acquaint themselves with our democratic experience—derived from our peculiar traits, our unique characteristics, and our traditions. I also hope that our endeavors will be successful. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Sick, Wounded POW Exchange To Begin 22 Nov

JN1711110888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—The exchange of sick and wounded POW's will begin between Iraq and Iran on Tuesday, 22 November. An Iraqi source has told INA that Swiss planes chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross will transport the POW's. He added that the transportaion of POW's will last 12 days, excluding Fridays, and there will be 12 daily, direct shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran. He said the planes will transport approximately 100 Iraqi POW's and 40 Iranian POW's daily. The source explained that the necessary hospitals were prepared to treat and provide care to the returning POW's.

Hammadi Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN1511155388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with a U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Anthony Coursiman [name as received]. Bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting.

UN Observers Group Commander Returns 16 Nov

JN1611163088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], arrived in Baghdad from Tehran this afternoon on a visit to Iraq.

Gen Jovic had left Baghdad for Tehran on Wednesday [9 November] within the framework of his shuttle tours and trips between the capitals of the two countries to acquaint himself with the work of UN observers in both countries.

French, Spanish, Ministers Attend Baghdad Fair

JN1411165288 Baghdad INA in English 1532 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 14, INA—Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade, today conferred here with the French minister of external trade and the Spanish minister of industry and energy.

During the meetings, discussions tackled means of promoting technical, economic and trade cooperation with France and Spain.

The two ministers arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of economic delegations to attend the current session of the Baghdad International Fair.

They told INA on arrival that they would have talks with Iraqi officials on boosting their countries' developing relations with Iraq.

Reportage on Visit of French Trade Minister

Meets Oil Minister

JN1411205888 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 14, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi met here Monday with visiting French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch.

The meeting was reported to have dealt with oil cooperation between the two countries and the participation of French firms in implementing development projects in Iraq. Mr. Rausch is leading his country's side to the current session of the joint Franco-Iraqi committee on economic, trade and technical cooperation.

Mr. al-Jalabi also had talks with a visiting Soviet economic delegation led by Oleg D. Bavidov, undersecretary of Soviet External Relations Ministry, to review progress of development projects under construction by Soviet companies.

Gives Letter to Ramadan

JN1411214088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written message from French Prime Minister Michel Rocard on the relations between Iraq and France. The message stresses France's commitment to its relations with Iraq and the continuation of its position and keenness on promoting these relations in all fields.

The message was delivered by French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch during Ramadan's reception of him this evening. The first deputy prime minister renewed the appreciation by Iraq's leadership, at the top of which is President leader Saddam Husayn, of the model relations between the two countries and Iraq's determination to continue promoting its ties with France.

He stressed that Iraqi-French relations, which were characterized by constant development during the war, will continue to flourish and advance during the new stage, at which Iraq stands at the threshold of peace. Ramadan pointed out the comprehensive development plans to be implemented at the current and forthcoming stages.

During the meeting, which dealt with means of expanding bilateral cooperation, the French minister expressed the readiness of French companies to continue their

work in Iraq and help implement the projects of comprehensive development in the new stage. He stressed the French institutions' confidence in Iraq's economy and its future.

The meeting was attended by the French ambassador in Baghdad and members of the accompanying delegation.

Leaves After 3-Day Visit

JN1511120588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the French minister discussed with a number of Iraqi officials means of promoting the developed relations between the two countries in all fields.

Reportage on Visit of Spanish Industry Minister

Visits With Oil Minister

JN1511141988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1147 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi met with Spanish Industry and Energy Minister Claudio Aranzadi and the delegation accompanying him here today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them, particularly the possibility of Spanish companies' contribution to development projects in Iraq.

The Spanish ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Discusses Ties With Ramadan

JN1511174388 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) the first deputy premier received here today the Spanish minister of Industry and Energy, Claudio Aranzadi, who is currently visiting Iraq to attend the 25th Baghdad International Fair.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction over their developing course and confirmed the joint desire for finding new fields contributing to enhance them.

The Spanish minister affirmed his country's confidence in the Iraqi economy and its future and preparedness of Spanish institutions to increase the volume of their works in executing development projects in Iraq.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1511181388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here today Claudio Aranzadi, Spanish minister of industry and energy, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The talks dealt with the bilateral relations and means of promoting them in all fields. They also dealt with the latest developments in the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, aimed at a full implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598, and Iraq's sincere desire to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace between the two countries and in the Gulf region.

The meeting, which was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the delegation accompanying the Spanish minister, also discussed the situation in the region and issues of concern to both countries.

Sees Transport Minister

JN1611111488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah has met with Spanish Energy and Industry Minister Claudio Aranzadi, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, particularly regarding the Spanish companies' contribution to operating Iraqi ports and supplying them with the necessary equipment. The two sides also agreed that the Spanish side shall supply Iraq with trains and vehicles to modernize and expand its railroad network, supply Iraqi planes at Spanish airports with foodstuff, and modernize telephone switchboards and supply Iraq with more of them.

The Spanish minister expressed his country's readiness to grant financial credits and facilities to carry out these projects, to give priority to cooperation with Iraq, and to carry out projects in a manner that would consolidate relations between the two countries.

Trade Minister Receives Soviet Official

JN1511114588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today received Davydov, deputy minister of the Soviet Trade Ministry, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in the interest of the two peoples.

Trade Minister Assesses Baghdad Fair Contracts

JN1611174888 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 16, INA—Iraqi minister of trade, Muhammad Mahdi Salih said here today that Iraq has concluded a 435 million dollars worth contracts with foreign companies participating at Baghdad 25th International Trade Fair which ended here yesterday.

They provided for purchasing beef, mutton, construction equipment and different commodities, he said.

Eighty per cent of equipment and hardware displayed at the fair have also been bought and would be distributed on [as received] state-run departments.

Describing the fair as a success, the minister said it was a large economic demonstration which contributed in fostering economic and tecnical cooperation between Iraq and many countries.

Reportage on Visit of Polish Interior Minister

Minister Arrives 14 Nov

JN1411210588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Polish Internal Affairs Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak arrived here tonight leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. During the visit, the Polish internal affairs minister will hold talks dealing with ways to enhance and consolidate relations of cooperation in the security field and the combat of crime and the exchange of expertise between the two countries.

1st Round of Talks Held

JN1511143088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1146 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—The first round of official talks between Iraq and Poland began here today. Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab led the Iraqi side to the talks, while Internal Affairs Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak led the Polish side. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, particularly in the security and crime-combatting fields, and the exchange of visits and expertise.

Attending the talks were a number of officials of the internal security forces in both countries.

President Gets Jaruzelski Message

JN1511142388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Wojciech Jaruzelski, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party [PUWP] and chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic. The message deals with the existing relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting them in all fields.

The message was delivered by Czeslaw Kiszczak, member of the politburo of the PUWP's Central Committee and minister of internal affairs, during the president's reception of him here today.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and the president's secretary.

2d Round of Talks Held

JN1611110688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—The second round of Iraqi-Polish talks was held at the Interior Ministry here today. Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab led the Iraqi side to the talks, while Internal Affairs Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak led the Polish side. They resumed discussion of topics discussed during the first round of talks which was held yesterday, particularly in the crime-combatting field, and the exchange of expertise between the two countries.

The Polish minister expressed extreme happiness with the progress of the talks which will contribute to the promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Attending the talks were a number of officials of the internal security forces in both countries.

Police Cooperation Pact Signed

JN1711132588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—A cooperation agreement between the Iraqi and Polish national police departments was signed here today at the end of the official talks between the two countries' interior ministries.

The agreement provides for exchanging experience and information between the two police departments to further promote their performance. In speeches on this occasion, Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and Polish Internal Affairs Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak expressed hope that relations between the two ministries will witness further promotion and development. The agreement was signed on both sides by the police directors general of the two countries.

Polish Minister, Ramadan Confer

JN1711153488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Czeslaw Kiszczak, member of the Polish United Workers Party Politburo and minister of internal affairs.

Ramadan affirmed that the forthcoming meeting of the joint Iraqi-Polish committee will discuss ways to find new spheres for developed relations between the two countries.

Kiszczak praised the development and prosperity in Iraq. He said that the future of Iraq will be effective and important in the international arena.

During the meeting, which was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and emphasized a common desire to expand cooperation between the two countries.

Paper Urges Arab Support for Palestinian State

JN1611152088 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 16, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad called the Arab countries to effectively and swiftly move on the world level to gain support and recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

A daily commentary here today said that pan-Arab support of the Palestinian state needs an effective move to win backing of the world and leading to placing the Zionist entity before a de facto situation that it could not neglect.

It added that announcement of the Palestinian state, though culminated struggle of Arab masses, is a prelude for a required Arab action to turn this announcement into a fact based on the soil of Palestine. [sentence as received]

It said that the announcement decision was not only the outcome of Palestinian thinking but it also came as an expression to a comprehensive popular desire called for by people of the occupied land for which they had escalated their uprising and resisted all forms of oppression and persecution.

Alignment 'Demands' Will Not Include Rotation
TA1611154888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The list of demands which the Alignment is going to submit to the Likud as a condition for joining a national unity government will not include a rotation of the premiership. This is reported by our correspondent Razi Barqay.

In contrast, the Labor Party will ask for a supervisory body, with equal representation from both sides, to prevent unilateral decisions on foreign, defense and settlement issues. In addition, the Alignment will require that besides the defense portfolio, which is assigned to Yitzhaq Rabin, the foreign affairs or the finance portfolio must be given to Shim'on Peres.

At the end of the discussion in Shim'on Peres' office the Alignment ministers said that if the demands are not met they will not join a Likud-led government. They want to set up a team with two senior Alignment members as well as two senior Likud members to clarify these problems before the start of official negotiations. All Labor Party ministers, both hawks and doves, who are opposed to joining a broad-based government, will meet at the party's headquarters in Tel Aviv tomorrow.

Rabin on Coalition, PNC, Territories
TA1611214288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Yoram Ronen, military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, and Hanan 'Azran, on the weekly "Moqed" program in the television studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] I suggest we begin with the coalition and the Alignment ministers meeting. This morning you decided to request further clarifications from the prime minister. My question is: What is so unclear? Shamir speaks of a government with the guidelines of the former one, without an international conference, and with the religious parties. What can you find in Shamir's government under these terms?

[Rabin] Look, the alternative to the present configuration is either sitting on the opposition benches or responding to the proposal by Mr Shamir, who has been empowered with forming the new government, to join the government. I believe our national responsibility for the country's future demands that we examine very seriously that proposal, which I believe was made most sincerely. [passage omitted]

['Azran] Besides the defense, what other portfolios does the Labor Party demand for itself?

[Rabin] [Passage omitted] I would advise the Likud to give us the defense and the Treasury portfolios, and I will tell you why. I do not believe there can be a government in Israel that would not initiate activities to promote the peace process. The Likud told us yesterday that its interpretation of the government's guidelines is the following: Striving toward peace on the basis of the Camp David accords through direct negotiations and a willingness to accept the participation of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—in the negotiations. Our own way also included the willingness to go to an international conference.

Let us give the Likud a chance to promote the peace process on the basis of their two concepts, that is: The Camp David accords, with autonomy as the first stage; and direct negotiations, with the participation of the two superpowers. Does not the Likud believe in its way? Holding the positions of prime minister and foreign minister, they will be able to promote this. Without a serious effort to promote the peace process, I think no serious government can exist. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Mr Rabin, the Likud has not concealed the fact that, for various reasons, they would like to see you as their defense minister. Is there a possibility that you and your camp will somehow join a broad-based government, if no other possibilities exist?

[Rabin] I am a member of the Labor Party, I believe in its way, and I will not follow the path of someone [referring to Moshe Dayan who joined the Likud government on a Labor ticket in the late 1970's] who did that in the past. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Why does Labor not let the Likud tow the peace process boat alone, while you remain in the opposition?

[Rabin] I estimate that if the government includes the Likud, the religious parties, Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet, it will be impossible for it to adopt the guidelines of the former government. I cannot see Tehiya accepting the Camp David accords and autonomy as the government's guidelines. I cannot see a large part of the parties to the right of the Likud, possibly including the NRP [National Religious Party], settling for partnership in a narrow-based government without a settlement drive in the territories, which is certain to thwart any chance for peace.

Therefore, out of a sense of responsibility for the country's future, and trusting the Likud's sincerity in declaring that it wishes to promote the peace process, I say: Go ahead, take the reins, try to do it on the basis of the same guidelines, according to the plans you presented to us yesterday. Try to shift the peace process by the means of your prime minister and foreign minister, both of whom will talk the same language and share similar ideologies, in the framework of the guidelines! [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, with your permission, let us go over to yesterday's PNC resolution on the establishment of a state. Does this decision herald any change or softening in the PLO's traditional position by mentioning, for the first time, Israel's right of existence, of Resolutions 242 and 338? Does this contain any change?

[Rabin] Not at all. I think that those who closely peruse the declaration of independence as it is written, and know how to read its content, and those who read those sections of the political announcement which were published, know that the declaration of independence emphasizes and defines the Palestinian national rights and the basis for them. These national rights focus on three points. First, the right of return, the implication of which is the right of return of 1.5 million Palestinians and their offspring to the area of Israel within the Green Line boundaries.

Second, the right of self-determination, the right to found in Eretz Yisra'el a PLO-Palestinian state, the borders of which have not been determined. Third, an emphasis on the matter of their sovereignty and nationalism. In fact, inherent in this definition are the two stages of the PLO conception of achieving their long-term goals. Therefore...

[Shlonsky, interrupting] The fact that radical organizations support Resolution 242, in a conditional form, or even Resolution 181—Is this not a change? We are talking here of radical organizations, not only the PLO of...

[Rabin, interrupting] This is no change, in my opinion. It is exactly the fact that Habash and Hawatimah have expressed their support that justifies my assumption. The willingness to have an international conference convene on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the guaranteeing of national rights, as I defined them before, according to the PLO interpretation, while emphasizing, for the sake of the international conference, the right for self-determination and the establishment of nationalistic Palestinian sovereignty in the homelands indicates that the PLO has not changed a thing. The PLO found formulations [changes thought], in fact the proclamation of independence, this political, emotional declaration, is primarily aimed at the Palestinians in the territories.

The political announcement is targeted at the United States, first of all, since the PLO conception is based on the premise that in its political moves it should convince the United States to reach an agreement with it, and the United States should then convince Israel. It seems to me that in this interview we had better engage less in sophistry on the declaration and the political announcement, and rather ask what this commits us to do.

[Shlonsky] Is there a chance that the United States, for example, will soften its position? We have not heard this in the statement by the U.S. State Department spokesman this evening, but still, is there a chance that there will be any change whatsoever in the U.S. position toward the PLO?

[Rabin] In my opinion, this is a danger rather than a chance. I believe that the United States will not change its position since the PLO has not met the three main conditions. First, the PLO has not adopted Resolutions 242 and 338 as a sole basis for action. Second, the PLO has not condemned, nor dissociated itself from terror and violence. Third, the declaration is a unilateral move for changing the situation in the territories, albeit of a declarative nature, and the United States is opposed to this.

It seems to me that our problem today is, first, to continue to suppress violence in the territories. Contrary to what was quoted in my name today, I did not say in the Inner Cabinet, nor will I ever say, that the IDF is unable to do so. The IDF is doing this, and well, and I believe that what has happened in recent days can serve as a turning point for the beginning of a significant reduction in violence. Since the PLO set the 15th of the month, and the days of the PNC session in general, as a test of confrontation with us, we faced up to this confrontation with the aim of proving that they will not achieve a thing, and they have not achieved anything indeed.

I believe that there is a good chance that the Palestinians will begin to sober up, and we shall continue the violence-preventing activity. Second, with political activity we should foil this PLO attempt to deceive the world, including the United States, and to make the world believe that the PLO has softened its positions, as it were. The Israeli people can trust their power and ability to foil this PLO exercise.

['Azran] Mr Rabin, perhaps we should dwell on foreign policy still. Several countries have already recognized the Palestinian declaration. Will you, for instance, recommend severing relations with those countries which have recognized this Palestinian state or made their favorable announcements?

[Rabin] I do not think relations should be severed. Instead, we should explain the situation. I think that our position is a powerful, strong and just one in the face of the PLO's attempts to continue to instigate violence in the territories and encourage terror from Lebanon, on the one hand, and on the other, to assume the image of a peace-seeking righteous organization vis-a-vis the Western world and the United States primarily. It is within our power to overcome this problem, to prove to the PLO that it will not achieve anything through violence and terror, nor through this political deception.

[Ronen] What will happen, Mr Rabin, if countries such as Greece and Italy recognize the Palestinian state? What will happen if Egypt recognizes the Palestinian state?

[Rabin] They have not recognized this state as of now. I estimate that West European countries will not do so. As for Egypt, if it recognizes the declaration of independence, it will, in fact, deviate from the Camp David accords, of which one component is that a change in the status of the territories can be introduced only through negotiations and not unilaterally.

[Shlonsky] You mentioned the residents of the territories before. Nevertheless, from the point of view of the residents of the territories the declaration of independence in Algiers is perhaps the only political achievement which they have scored since the beginning of the intifada, the uprising. Do you believe this will serve as fuel for a continuation of the uprising, or, in the wake of recent developments, of IDF's heavy-handed policy, we will be facing an era of relative calm in the territories?

[Rabin] I have no doubt that a considerable number of the residents of the territories view this as their achievement. Still, I hope that the direction which many of them will follow will be one of saying: We have made it, we have made a political process possible. If there is calm today, this is not only due to the IDF's military presence. We had a presence on a similar scale in the past, too. We have witnessed the accumulative effect of our activity, which makes it increasingly difficult for the residents of the territories to carry out violent acts against us and among themselves. Using the same force in March this year did not obtain the same results we have obtained today, since our activity resulted in a cumulation of tiredness, deterrence, means, and methods of operation which today prevent the residents of the territories from doing what they might have done then.

['Azran] It seems that the IDF has placed a heavy lid on the territories and proceeded to close the boiling cauldron as tightly as possible. The question is whether this is the price we will have to pay in the future if we wish to maintain quiet in the territories.

[Ronen] I would like to add to Hanan's question. Yesterday, you resorted to some very harsh measures in the territories. You disconnected telephone lines, you disconnected electricity so as to prevent them from watching television, you prohibited demonstrations of joy, and you said that anyone caught singing the PLO hymn will be punished. Do you not think these measures recall occupation methods of totalitarian regimes?

[Rabin] I believe that when faced with the violence as it has evolved in over 11 months, whose political targets are very extensive and detrimental to Israel's future and security, we may resort to any measures allowed under the law. We did resort to those measures, and we will do so again in the future. The IDF is strong and capable of taking action within the framework of the law. I believe that if our steps are a part of a continuous process, we will bring about a considerable calm in the territories within 3 to 6 months.

['Azran] Why did you not do it at the beginning, when the uprising broke out?

[Rabin] We did do it. It should be remembered that today's developments in the territories are not terror. If they were, we would have solved the problem a long time ago. Our problem is that we are faced with civilian violence carried out by a large percentage of the Palestinian residents in the territories. It is carried out by means accessible to anyone: a stone, a Molotov cocktail, a barricade, a burning tire. When faced with all these, therefore, it is necessary to resort to measures that can eliminate the motivation of the entire population. These measures must also be permitted by the law. It is not a one-time action, it is a continuous process. The struggle against terror in Lebanon has not been limited to one act, either. It has been going on since the Lebanon war, for the last 6 and ½ years.

[Shlonsky] Excuse me, Minister. We are talking about violence in the territories, the IDF's heavy-handed policy. Less than 1 year ago, you sat here on the Moqed program saying that the uprising may, perhaps, bring about the growth of a new leadership in the territories. We see, however, that those who are supposed to be the leaders of the intifada, the uprising, are either deported or jailed for long periods of time. Who are we supposed to talk with? Who are these interlocutors of ours in the territories, who are not connected to the uprising?

[Rabin] I said less than 1 year ago that I hoped a leadership would arise, and I do see the buds of that leadership. I can see the importance of the Palestinian residents of the territories, and the importance of the entire Palestinian issue with all its aspects, increase in the Arab world. I think you should look at processes in the terms of weeks and months, rather than from the proper perspective from which the Arab-Israeli confrontation should be viewed.

[Ronen] You said that you hope a calm will be achieved in the territories within 3 to 6 months. Will we have a partner for talks in the territories within 3 to 6 months?

[Rabin] I cannot tell you that with certainty. I am sure, however, that action must be taken. If we want to adopt the political method—and I object to negotiating with the PLO, because I am against the establishment of a pro-PLO Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan—there should be a Palestinian partner to any political process, in order to achieve peace along our eastern border with Jordan.

I believe that if we adhere to our stands by not allowing violence rage freely and by taking forceful but legal action against it; and if we thwart the PLO's plot

conceived in Algiers and aiming to deceive the world; and if, along with the above, we seek ways to promote the peace process, I believe we will attain our goals.

[Ronen] Are you saying this on the assumption that you will be the defense minister in the next few months?

[Rabin] I am saying this because this is my credo. I believe that on the terms I have presented, it is possible to achieve all this even in the framework of a broad-based government, such as is being currently proposed. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon on PNC Political Document

TA1711072288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr Ben-Aharon, you are in the possession of the full and official version of the PNC political document. Can you tell us about this document—does it include details that were not mentioned in the reports from Algiers this week?

[Ben-Aharon] We should view this version of the political document together with the declaration of independence and against the background of the objectives the PLO set for itself during this PNC session. We have here a sophisticated work of deception which has fooled most of the media.

[Golan] In what way?

[Ben-Aharon] They wanted to translate what they call the intifada [uprising] into political assets. The problem they faced was how to achieve political gains against the background of acts of violence and terrorism. They therefore chose to work in stages. In the first stage, the spokesmen attempted to prepare the media for a significantly moderate act: declaring, in a responsible manner, the establishment of a state alongside Israel and accepting all the moderate UN resolutions, such as 242, while basing all this on the UN partition resolution of 1947.

[Golan] Does the document not state that the PLO is willing to attend an international conference on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Ben-Aharon] No, this does not appear in the document. The political decisions publicized at the end of the process are based on the events in the territories and include enthusiastic praise for the holy children of the stones and for the acts of violence and defend the Palestinian people's right to fight to free its land. The document sharply criticizes Israel and calls it a fascist, racist, colonialist state that is based on the theft of Palestinian land, et cetera.

[Golan] So Israel is mentioned in the document after all?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, but only in this context.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, the PLO's political orientation leans toward the United States. Do we not see a trend toward moderation here—some kind of attempt to move away from terrorism in order to appease Washington? This is what the PLO wants to achieve in its relations with the United States.

[Ben-Aharon] Certainly. I think that their main objective was to achieve a breakthrough vis-a-vis the United States. The problem was how to do so without betraying the principles of the PLO. This is why they declared the establishment of a state before coming out with their political decisions. In the declaration of independence they refer to the UN partition resolution 181 and UN Resolution 242.

[Golan] Previously, the PLO did not accept the principle of partition at all.

[Ben-Aharon] Indeed not. When one reads the document carefully, however, it is clear that they chose to mention those parts of these resolutions that suit them, while ignoring the parts that could be construed as amounting to recognition of Israel. They are saying, for example, that even 181 recognized the legitimacy of a Palestinian state; they say this against the background of rejecting the right of the Jewish people to their own state in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Ben-'Ami] President-elect George Bush yesterday said that if these resolutions do indeed constitute recognition, this is a step forward. Do you think that the United States will consider these decisions a step forward? And what about the possibility Egypt recognizing the Palestinian state?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think that the U.S. Government will consider the decisions of the PNC session a step forward; neither will they view them as acceptance of the three familiar conditions: an end to terrorism, acceptance of UN Resolution 242, and recognition of Israel's right to exist.

[Ben-'Ami] Do the documents include the three conditions?

[Ben-Aharon] They all appear there, but negatively. In other words, they say they will renounce terrorism, but stress that it is Israel which uses terrorism while they themselves are fighting for their independence. They also point out that the United Nations has recognized their right to independence.

[Ben-'Ami] What about Egypt?

[Ben-Aharon] President Mubarak has not followed in the steps of the countries that hurried to recognize the Palestinian state. Egypt must be more careful, because it

has relations with Israel and very close relations with the United States. It does not want to appear as an opportunistic state. At the same time, however, we know that Egypt is about to receive 'Arafat, and perhaps at this opportunity Egypt will make the move I hope it will abstain from. I hope it will not follow the extremist Arab states, which have recognized the Palestinian state.

As is well known, Egypt is bound by the Camp David accords to reach an agreement with Israel and to help us establish autonomy together with Jordan and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. The recognition of this state would amount to a violation of the spirit of the Camp David accords. Such an act would run counter to the accords and would make the continuation of the process more difficult. We therefore hope that Egypt will be careful.

[Golan] Mr Ben-Aharon, as somebody who, like many others in Israel, is against negotiations with the PLO, you are probably happy about the document and the statements coming from Algiers. What would have happened if the PLO had come out with a moderate document expressing willingness to exist alongside Israel? Would this have been more difficult for you?

[Ben-Aharon] That is not true; I am not at all happy. We want the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el to realize that this outside terrorist element cannot lead them toward a solution, but only toward more bereavement and suffering. We cannot be happy when there is such an element which deludes them. We sincerely want a local and responsible leadership to come out against the PLO and say that they want to take their future into their own hands and negotiate with Israel.

Ben-Aharon Denies Warning Egypt on PNC

TA1711123388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says he did not warn Egypt not to recognize the Palestinian state declared in Algiers; he only expressed the hope that it would not do so. According to him, such a recognition would harm the spirit of Camp David.

Foreign Ministry Launches Information Campaign

TA1611200588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's directorate convened in Jerusalem this evening and decided to immediately launch a public relations offensive throughout the world to prevent the PLO from creating the impression that it has changed its positions toward Israel. Instructions are being issued tonight to all Israeli representations around the world, with an emphasis that the PLO does not recognize the State of Israel, has not accepted UN Resolution 242, and is not calling for a halt to terrorism. These points will be emphasized in messages to foreign ministries in all accessible countries. The decision for the public relations offensive resulted from a feeling in Jerusalem that the Palestinians are reaping some success in the world and creating the impression that they have recognized Israel.

All security elements who analyzed the Palestinian declaration of independence at the Inner Cabinet today did not find any positive points or any rapprochement toward Israel's positions. They noted that the massive IDF presence in the territories has resulted in control over the area. The defense minister notes that the Palestinian declaration of independence bears psychological and political implications for the inhabitants of the territories. 'Arafat intends to speak at the United Nations on 29 November [the anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Eretz Yisra'el in 1947], and his moves are aimed at reaching an understanding with the United States.

The IDF will not be able to control the situation with military means for a long time, Yitzhaq Rabin declared today, and called for a political resolution of the situation in the territories. Minister Ari'el Sharon warned the Inner Cabinet ministers against a dangerous situation and political collapse. It is important that our line is clear, Sharon said. Minister 'Ezer Weizman said we should check whether the PLO declaration does have attendant positive developments. He noted his concern on the impact the situation has on relations with Egypt.

Minister David Levi calls for cooperation between the Likud and the Alignment in the political and public relations spheres. The prime minister warned that the PLO declaration contains a great danger, and it is part of the struggle over the existence of the state. In the meantime, however, Shamir says, it is not necessary to feel pressured. In summary, Jerusalem is taking a very serious view of the dangers inherent in the declaration of Palestinian independence and is launching a counteroffensive to explain Israel's positions to the world.

Embassy To Act Against 'Arafat's U.S. Visit

TA1311131488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yaqir Tzur]

[Excerpt] Over the weekend, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem instructed Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to the United States, to take every possible action to express Israel's objection to Yasir 'Arafat's New York visit.

In a message sent by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Ambassador Arad is instructed to act against the projected visit among U.S. State Department officials, and

to instruct and coordinate Israeli consulates' activities with the media, with Jewish organizations, as well as with other targets, in order to create public pressure against 'Arafat's arrival. [passage omitted]

Sharon Sees Rise in Terrorism, Economic Sanctions

TA1711090788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon believes that many countries will recognize the Palestinian state and that as a result, Israel will be subject to greater political and economic pressure. Sharon thinks that the EEC may impose economic sanctions on Israel. Minister Sharon made these remarks to a delegation of French dignitaries, including parliament members, brought to Israel by the French branch of the Herut Movement. Our correspondent Amnon Pe'er brings an excerpt from Minister Sharon's remarks:

[Begin Sharon recording] First, terrorism will increase. Second, we believe that more and more countries will recognize the declaration of independence, and as a result, the political pressure on Israel will increase. This pressure might be accompanied by economic sanctions; one of the first places this might happen is in the EEC. I want to emphasize that as long as the PLO is active, there can be no peace in our region. It is inconceivable that any moderate Palestinian element or the leader of any Arab state would agree to enter real peace negotiations as long as the terror organizations are active and threaten their lives. [end recording]

ANTENI Interviews Communist Party Leader

AU0411152588 Sofia ANTENI in Bulgarian No 44 2 Nov 88 pp 1, 10, 11

[Interview with Meir Vilner, secretary general of the Communist Party of Israel Central Committee, by ANTENI special correspondent Penka Zaimova, in Tel Aviv: "Two States for Two Peoples"—date not given]

[Excerpts] A solid steel door barred the landing leading to the last two floors of this building in the center of Tel Aviv. The windows and terraces were protected by grilles. The security measures, dictated by numerous provocations by hooligans, clearly indicated the conditions in which the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel was operating. We sat down in a small salon. Among the well-known portraits I noticed a photograph of Georgi Dimitrov. A little later, precisely at the agreed time, Meir Vilner, secretary general of the Communist Party of Israel, made his appearance and greeted me with a smile.

He is a short, slightly built, energetic man, modest and intelligent in appearance, a man whom it is hard to believe is 70 years old. We started our conversation with the subject that is currently most topical in Israel, namely the parliamentary elections, but with the proviso that some inaccuracies are inevitable, since our meeting took place on the eve of the elections.

[Zaimova] What is the relationship between the forces in the political scene at present?

[Vilner] There are many political parties and factions in Israel. The main ones, from the viewpoint of power and influence, are the right-wing Likud bloc, led by Yitzhak Shamir, and the Ma'arakh bloc, with the Israel Labor Party, led by Shimon Peres, in its center. Differences exist between the two blocs, but they mainly share the same political aims and plans. The experiment of the last 4 years, when they jointly formed a government, has demonstrated that they are able to work together in both the economic and political spheres. [passage omitted]

[Zaimova] The Communist Party of Israel supports the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination. What is your attitude now toward the uprising in the occupied territories?

[Vilner] We consider that the intifada [uprising] is the first Palestinian popular rising in history, and of course are solidly behind this people's struggle against the occupation, just as we support every national liberation movement. The creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the River Jordan, in Gaza, and in eastern Jerusalem is not only in the interest of the Palestinian people. It is no less in the interest of the Israeli people, because this is the only chance for obtaining peace and security. Our slogan at the elections is two states for two peoples.

[Zaimova] The Communist Party of Israel is one of the main forces in the country that has been fighting for peace for many years. Recently the peace movement as a whole has won even wider support. Are the numbers of your supporters and comrades-in-arms in this movement increasing now?

[Vilner] The fact that dozens of organizations and committees, which are against the occupation and for a just peace, are now in existence and working actively is mainly the result of two factors. First, the improvement of the international atmosphere and the settlement of a number of regional conflicts, and second, the intifada. Many people who thought that the occupation could continue and that we would become used to it, have already changed their minds. They realize that this is destroying our economy and our social situation and is demoralizing a large part of the young generation.

Now various organizations are acting against the occupation and for peace, and recently they have been cooperating with one another. The influence of the peace-loving forces is greater than before, but at the same

time the extreme right-wing, nationalist, and even fascist tendencies and groupings have also become more powerful. Such a severe and extreme polarization has never existed before.

[Zaimova] The Communist Party is working under difficult conditions. What does it mean to be a Communist in Israel?

[Vilner] It means, for example, that in most of industry, and not only there, Communists are not given employment. At present it is complex and difficult to be openly a Communist in Israel. However, we only work in the open. Many of our supporters do not want to admit it publicly. For example, we had a campaign for election funds.

Many of those who helped us did not want it to be known publicly. This is what the atmosphere is like here, yet all the same I would like to say that it is not as bad as it was 10 or 15 years ago. We have convinced many people that we are defending Israel's true national interests.

[Zaimova] Tell us something more about yourself.

[Vilner] What can I say? I have been a member of the party for 50 years, and work to this day as I have always done, without slowing down my tempo.

[Zaimova] What are the links of the Communist Party of Israel with the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and Bulgaria?

[Vilner] We have enjoyed extremely good relations for a very long time. This does not happen automatically with all parties, even when they have common outlooks, but our links have been like this since the time of Georgi Dimitrov. On occasion, the relations between the leaders influence those between the parties. I have the best relations with Comrade Todor Zhivkov. Our talks have always been honest and informal. However, the chief thing is the internationalism of both our parties. This is the main thing. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Wife To Meet Officials in Bulgaria

TA1611155888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by Ilona Henry and agencies]

[Excerpt] Shulamit Shamir, the wife of the prime minister, left for Bulgaria yesterday to attend a conference in Sofia on the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust. She is also due to meet senior Bulgarian officials, aides said yesterday.

Shamir, who was born in Bulgaria, is being accompanied by Arye Meqel, one of her husband's political advisers, and senior Foreign Ministry official Moshe Melamed. The two-day round-table discussion—with participants from Israel, the U.S., France, Italy, Denmark and Austria—is being organized by the Bulgarian news agency SOFIA-PRESS and the cultural and educational board of the Jews of Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Reinforced Patrols Discourage Disturbances

TA1611182088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Today's reinforced military deployment in Judaea and Samaria has again proved itself effective, despite the lifting of the closure on the West Bank. Foot patrols along the roads, motorized patrols, and observation from light aircraft and helicopters, along with initiated activities, have so far prevented disturbances.

The IDF today detained about 100 suspects from Hebron and several villages where protest activities were conducted. Residents of these villages had to take down PLO flags and erase painted slogans.

The relative quiet achieved by the army was occasionally disrupted by stone throwing, as was the case in Ramallah, where the security forces apprehended two riot inciters, one of whom turned out to be a resident of East Jerusalem who had gone to Ramallah to instigate the locals.

Most of the major cities today were declared closed military zones. Members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] stoned shops which were opened today—the movement having declared a 3-day commercial strike in protest over the PNC resolutions in Algiers. Their last leaflet urged the PLO not to give up a single grain of Palestinian soil.

The curfew in the Gaza Strip remains in force. Gaza's Ahali Hospital reported that two slightly wounded locals had been admitted, while Khan Yunus Al-Nasir Hospital reported one wounded. The IDF is investigating the reports.

Gaza Strip Casualties Reported

TA1611212788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The 5th day of curfew in the Gaza Strip has passed almost uneventfully. The IDF spokesman reported only one wounded by IDF soldiers' fire today. Arab sources, however, reported another six wounded as a result of IDF fire. A Rafah resident who was shot by soldiers 3 days ago died of his wounds this evening at Tel Hashomer Sheba Hospital. Quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip last night. The power which was cut 11 hours previously was restored only shortly before midnight.

There were only a few disturbances and curfew violations during the day. Curfew breakers rolled burning tires into the streets and threw stones. A vehicle carrying a group of journalists on tour of the Gaza Strip organized by the IDF was hit by a stone. The IDF spokesman reported that a youth who broke the curfew and ran wild was slightly wounded by soldiers' fire in Khan Yunus. Arab sources reported an additional four people were wounded in Khan Yunus earlier, as well as two, 14- and 15-year old boys from Gaza who were shot and slightly wounded in the morning.

Manifestations of joy over the declaration of a Palestinian state are continuing in the Gaza Strip, although on a very limited scale due to the curfew. Residents play loud music with the help of amplifiers, call out Allah Akbar [God is great in Arabic], and shout the names of the PLO leaders who chaired the PNC session in Algiers which issued the independence declaration.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2100 GMT on 16 November adds that "a No 81 bus was stoned twice this evening, once near the village of Hawwara, and then once within Nabulus, which is subject to curfew. Nobody was hurt. The bus driver fired in the air to scare the stone throwers off. An IDF patrol searched the area. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Uri Ari-el, the secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, made it clear today that the council's decision to view a stone as a murderous tool does not exempt the settlers from making sure that they are indeed in a life-threatening situation prior to opening fire."]

Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip, Other Areas

TA1711061188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The curfew in the Gaza Strip was lifted this morning, 5 days after it was imposed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew on several refugee camps and neighborhoods remains in effect. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, said that the curfew has achieved its objectives. Maj Gen Mordekhay told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that if life returns to normal, the IDF will reduce its forces in the area. He called upon local residents not to break the law. Our correspondent reports that Arab workers started leaving for work in Israel this morning.

The curfew has also been lifted off all the towns in Judaea and Samaria, except for the Nur al-Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps. Military sources reported that calm prevailed in Judaea and Samaria last night. At the same time, several places will remain under a blockade.

Research Analyzes Settlers' Attitude to Area

TA1011171688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 88 p 13

[Report by Nurit Amitay]

[Excerpts] About half of the Western Samaria population would agree to leave the district in return for a peace agreement. These are the findings of research conducted in August 1988 by Dr Rina Degani among religious and secular settlers residing in the area. Dr Degani, who is a city planner and a project director with Geocartography—Land Space Research Ltd company, interviewed 400 family heads from 11 Western Samaria settlements. The sampled settlements were separated into the following categories:

—urban secular: Ari'el, Alfe Menashe, and Ginnot Shomron

—rural secular: Ma'ale Shomron, Sha'are Tiqva, Sal'it, and Barqan

—urban religious: Elqana and Qarne Shomron

—secular settlements: Oranit and Kokhav Ya'ir (inside the Green Line on the border of West Samaria).

The research included questions concerning living standards, as well as state problems and current affairs. The interviewees had unlimited scope for replying, with a possibility to express their thoughts. The research is part of a larger project focusing on Jewish settlements in Samaria, the motives for settling there, housing standards, and the impact of these factors on the regional development of Samaria. The goals of the research are to understand the motives for settlement in Samaria, define the "typical settler," and to see if the religious settler differs from the secular.

One of the questions posed to the sampled population was the following: "How would you react if the government decided to evacuate the settlements in return for a peace agreement?" Some 45 percent replied that they would agree to be evacuated in one way or another. Of these, 5 percent said they would leave after protest within the law, and 5 percent said they would leave if they received appropriate compensation.

About 26 percent replied that they would object categorically to any form of evacuation, to the extent of a civil war. Only 2 percent of the respondents (most of these live in secular community settlements) said that they would agree to remain in the settlement under Jordanian rule. It should be noted that these are the same people who expressed high satisfaction with their chosen place of residence. Some 10 percent claimed evacuation would give them a nervous breakdown, while a further 7 percent threatened to emigrate from Israel if they are forced to abandon the settlement. [passage omitted]

The principal objectors to leaving Samaria came from the religious settlements. About half of the religious population threatened to resort to active resistance and to civil war. (The majority of the population in Samaria—about 75 percent—live in settlements defined as secular.)

About 62 percent of the questioned population of Oranit replied that they would agree to leave Samaria without any problem, in return for an appropriate financial compensation, of course. The population of Oranit is new to the area. In settling there, they were motivated by a desire to improve their living conditions, rather than by ideology. They were after a house in a rural atmosphere and, having limited finances, were forced to materialize their ambitions in the new settlements.

The advent of the intifada [uprising], which has crept very close to the homes of the settlers in Western Samaria, has not left them indifferent. About 36 percent of the interviewed settlers said that the problems have to be solved through an aggressive policy, a harsher approach coupled with extensive censorship. In parallel, they urge an increase in the Jewish settlement in the territories. The moderate settlers—about 25 percent of the respondents—favor coexistence with and aid to moderate Arabs. Some 8 percent of the total number of Western Samaria settlers want the district to be unequivocally defined.

The question of transfer, too, was included in the research, which was conducted before the elections. Only a small percentage saw transfer as a solution.

The Molotov cocktails occasionally thrown along the Samaria roads affect the number of iron-fist policy supporters. The research showed that the highest rate of supporters of this policy is to be found in urban-secular settlements (43 percent.) These settlements include Ari'el, Ginnot Shomron, and Alfe Menashe. It will be remembered that a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the Alfe Menashe Moses family, killing three of the family members.

Stones and Molotov cocktails have also caused injuries to Ginnot Shomron and Ari'el residents. The researcher believes this to be the reason for the high rate of supporters of an iron-fist policy against the uprising in the territories.

The constant tension accompanying the traffic in Western Samaria has increased the number of people doubting their future in the area. Answering the question: "Are you acquainted with a family in your settlement which is considering leaving the place?", 20 percent admitted to knowing such families. About 30 percent of these are acquainted with at least four families wishing to leave the settlement. The majority of those wishing to leave reside in urban-secular settlements. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i on Arab Policy, Economy

JN1511104888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Nov 88 p 18

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i by an unidentified correspondent of the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH to be published today—date not given]

[Text] Question: How do you view the current conditions in light of the new developments, especially the Lebanese events?

Answer: Under all circumstances, considerations of Arab conditions should be governed by supreme pan-Arab interests and the need for a unified Arab position through which we can deal with developments in our region and challenges facing our nation. On this basis, Jordan, led by His Majesty King Husayn, has always worked to build Arab reconciliation and solidarity as a guarantee against dangers and challenges in the Arab arena. Lebanon is a dear part of our Arab homeland. Along with Arab brothers, we are trying to establish an Arab stand to support Lebanon in its present crisis, ensuring its people's unity and territorial integrity. Arab efforts must be pooled toward realizing this objective. The Lebanese people themselves should also work for reconciliation because Lebanese reconciliation and an Arab agreement on a plan to save lebanon is the only way to deliver Lebanon and its people.

Question: Where have the Jordanian efforts reached in terms of calling for convening the ordinary Arab summit, and what about King Husayn's Arab tour?

Answer: His Majesty King Husayn and Jordan have always supported joint Arab action, especially on the summit level. Jordan has never failed to attend Arab summits and its efforts have always concentrated on promoting joint Arab action through Arab summits because the Arab summit is the cruscible in which Arab solidarity and action are created. Jordan welcomes convening the ordinary Arab summit as scheduled to discuss Arab and international developments. It supports holding periodic Arab summits. His Majesty's tours have always aimed at maintaining contacts with his Arab brothers for continuous consultations and coordination in all matters related to Arab interests and on all issues related to Arab existence and issues.

Question: Do you think that the tripartite Al-'Aqabah summit can be interpreted as a return to the Jordanian option for peace?

Answer: The Al-'Aqabah summit is also part of continuous Arab coordination and exchange of views on Arab, Palestinian, and Middle East developments. There is no Jordanian option for peace. There has never been a Jordanian option but a Palestinian option and a joint Arab role. Jordan will not hsistate to play its role as a confrontation state that has the longest borders with Israel with the aim of supporting this option and ensuring legitimate Palestinian rights. The consultations were conducted within this context.

Question: It is said that Jordan agreed on a confederation with an independent Palestinian state and asked the PLO to draw up a picture of the confederation it wishes to establish with Jordan.

Answer: Jordan has always been Arab and unionist. The unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian people is being manifested in Jordan today. The confederation is part of the thinking of Jordanians and Palestinians in terms of the future. However, this was not discussed in Al-'Aqabah. It is premature to discuss this now. The most important thing is for efforts to be pooled to deliver and liberate the Palestinian territory and ensure the Palestinian people's national rights. That is what is important at this stage.

Question: How are economic conditions now following recent measures to stabilize the Jordanian dinar? Are there any moves to strengthen the current price of the dinar?

Answer: The government has taken several economic, financial, and monetary measures to deal with the economic situation. It is earnestly working to tackle economic conditions that resulted from the budget and balance of payments deficits. We have started to control the Government's expenditure and restrict importation of luxury items. Measures have been taken to encourage exports, remove obstacles to investments, and provide incentives and facilities for this purpose. This will lead to exploiting the available resources in the best way possible, reducing consumption, increasing investment, and hence investing, exporting, and strengthening the dinar. We know that some aspects of the economic adaptation stage could be difficult. However, this stage will eventually strengthen the Jordanian economy and will enhance public awareness based on national interest. This stage of adaptation is necessary for a non-oil producing country like Jordan with limited resources and which is economically affected by the overall economic situation in the region. God willing, the national economy will recover and emerge more capable of steadfastness and competition. We rely on the citizen's understanding of the exigencies of the national interest which governs these decisions.

Question: The living conditions of Jordanian citizens have become difficult in light of the dinar's decline and the increase in price of most living requirements. Does your government intend to take measures to protect the citizen and help him face the high living costs?

Answer: It is natural that the country be affected by the drop in the dinar's exchange rate against foreign currencies and that the prices of some imports will soar. However, the government is resolved to meet the citizens' basic needs, to continue to subsidize basic commodities to maintain their prices without any increase, to reduce the cost of some basic services, and to curtail unnecessary consumption. Thus, economic capability will be geared toward consolidating domestic products and creating acceptable alternatives to the commodities requested by citizens. As I said, any stage of economic adaptation will consolidate the economy. In the long run, this will benefit all citizens.

Question: Regarding Arab support, it is being said that His Majesty King Husayn held a number of contacts with Arab brothers, after which some of their obligations toward Jordan were paid. Is this true?

Answer: It is no longer secret that a major portion of Arab support to Jordan as stipulated by the Baghdad summit did not reach Jordan. However, Jordan hopes that the Arab brothers will be able to overcome the circumstances which prevented the honoring of these obligations in the past. It is noteworthy that a large portion of Jordan's current debt is a result of Jordan's commitment to contracts and obligations based on Arab support. The failure of this support to arrive so far resulted in large economic burdens. The only sisterly Arab country which fulfilled its obligations fully is Saudi Arabia. We in Jordan—king, government, and people—appreciate the continued support of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and express our thanks and gratitude to it.

Question: In conclusion, we would like you to address Jordanian expatriates to assure them about the sound economic situation in Jordan.

Answer: I would like to assure our brothers working abroad that the Jordanian economy is solid and stands on sound bases. The economic adaptation is aimed at tackling the transient deficit in the balance of payments. Restoring balance to the Jordanian economy is possible and can be achieved successfully with the cooperation of all citizens. Citizens' savings abroad and their investments are maintained and guaranteed according to the constitution. The effects of the prevailing economic situation in the Arab region as a result of the Gulf war and economic recession in the region can be absorbed through sound economic adaptation, concentration on sound economic priorities, curtailment of unnecessary consumption, and concentration on domestic economic structure which provides investment opportunities to strengthen the national economy and benefit all citizens, God willing.

Reportage on Visit of World Bank President

President Conable Arrives

JN1311133488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minsiter Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at noon today World Bank President Barber Conable in the presence of Planning Minister Dr Tahir Kan'an. They discussed the progress of Jordanian development projects financed by the bank, particularly projects related to the educational and social sectors. The meeting was attended by the executive director of the bank's Arab group, the Middle East Department director, and the special assistant to the World Bank president.

Meets With King Husayn

JN1311163488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace today World Bank President Barber Conable. Conable praised the development achieved in Jordan in all fields in a short period of time. He also lauded Jordan's role in and effective contribution toward the development of a number of neighboring Arab states by supplying them with Jordanian expertise and skills in all fields.

Conable stressed the World Bank's readiness to cooperate with and support Jordan in carrying out its development programs and plans. He praised the success achieved by the Jordanian development plans and the existing cooperation between Jordan and the World Bank.

Attending the meeting were the Royal Court chief and the planning minister.

Examines Cooperation Prospects

JN1311201488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] An expanded meeting has been held at the Planning Ministry to examine cooperation between Jordan and the World Bank. A comprehensive review was taken up at the meeting of the World Bank's role in financing numerous development projects in Jordan and its future financing program, notably in social and economic projects with emphasis on education and health. The possibility of the bank granting facilities to finance projects in the tourism industry was also examined at the meeting. Government incentives to help the private sector adjust to the current state of Jordan's economy and future plans to keep it on an even keel were also considered at the meeting.

Taking part in the discussions for Jordan were the ministers of finance, planning, and energy and mineral resources, the Central Bank governor, and the Planning Ministry's director general. The World Bank side comprised its president, Barber Conable, and other bank executives.

Comments on Foreign Debt

JN1511091088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES Economics Correspondent]

[Text] Amman—World Bank President Barber Conable said Monday that Jordan's foreign debt was well distributed and stable and that there was no need to reschedule loans granted to the Kingdom. He said the World Bank supported the government's measures aimed at adjusting the economic situation.

"We deal with many countries that have a much heavier debt than Jordan—and the structure of debt that puts time pressures on cash flow in ways that prompts rescheduling," Conable told a press conference. "We think the Jordanian debt is well distributed and stable."

He said the World Bank had an eight per cent exposure with Jordan which he said was not considered excessive. "We do not consider ourselves in any degree overexposed here in Jordan. We think we have had a very stable programme and that it will be possible to continue it indefinitely at this level."

Speaking to reporters following talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and other senior officials, Conable said: "I don't believe there is basis for a feeling of crisis at this point." He said there was no discussion of rescheduling the Kingdom's debt.

"We have not been urged to take any dramatic balance of payments action which sometimes we do," the World Bank president said. He said the prospects of such action was "always a possibility."

"My impression is the government has every intention of weathering the storm through reasonable measures, and we believe that is fairly possible."

Asked whether the World Bank had any recommendations to Jordan, he responded: "From what we know and from discussions we had, it sounds as though the government is doing the things that we would recommend."

"Admittedly," he pointed out, the recent economic developments "have created at least temporary concerns, but it seems as though the situation is well at hand. It will require some austerity measures in all probability, but they (the government) seem to have a very clear understanding of the forces at work there and are prepared to do what is necessary. So we are not consulting about any specific action with respect to it."

Conable described his talks in Jordan as "very harmonious" during which he reviewed relations between Jordan and the World Bank. Since 1962, Jordan has obtained 13 loans from the World Bank's International Development Association and 28 loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, totalling $850 million. The International Finance Corporation, also a World Bank institution which lends to the private sector, has lent $100 million to Jordan, bringing the total to nearly $1 billion.

Conable said the World Bank had recently fallen into a pattern of financing three projects a year, totalling $100 million. "We see no reason why the programme cannot continue as long as Jordan wishes it to," he said.

He pointed out that the World Bank was currently considering an educational sector loan which would put a greater emphasis the government's priority of developing vocational training in the country. The World Bank president said he sensed a concern in Jordan about increasing the efficiency of the productive sector so that Jordan can take advantage of an export trade with countries in the region, to help its balance of payment and provide jobs for Jordanians.

The World Bank, he said, shared Jordan's concern with the size of unemployment and supported the government's emphasis on the private sector as "a good idea." He also supported emphasis on small and medium-size industries "because it would create more jobs than other types of economic activity and adds pluralism to Jordan's industrial sector and provide more stable exports than might result from having one or two big industrial projects which may or may not be able to export easily in the long run."

Conable said he found Jordan officials to be "very much on top of the economic situation and have strong ideas of their own."

"This is the environment in which the World Bank likes to lend because if we can support the priorities of the government, we are usually much better off than making suggestions as outsiders on ways in which economic development can occur. [no close quote as published]

Ardy Stoutjesdijk, the World Bank's country department director, told the press conference that the World Bank was extending a large loan for the telecommunications industry that is supporting the government's desire to commercialise telecommunications more than it does currently. He said that in the future the government may even go as far as privatization of the industry.

He said the World Bank was also discussing a loan for a comprehensive review of the health sector, particularly curative and preventive health facitities.

Conable stressed what he described as Jordan's "strong entrepreneurial spirit which could be encouraged by the development of more skilled labour force to meet a diversity of economic objectives."

"That is the basic underlying reason for the educational sector loan that we are preparing," he said.

The level of Jordan's skills, if adequately supplemented with additional vocational training, will permit technology goods to be competitive in the region, Conable said.

Commenting on Jordan's overall economic situation, Conable said the Kingdom's potential rested with its rich human resources.

"Jordan cannot become like Japan overnight," he said, but it has "a remarkable literacy rate and education system that can be turned to considerable advantage in productivity if they wish."

"It takes them some organising and some work and I think that is the plan of the government," he concluded.

Swiss Red Cross Official Kidnapped 17 Nov

NC1711094188 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 17 (AFP)—Three armed men abducted a Swiss employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) early Thursday in this southern port city, Lebanese police said.

The men seized Peter Wingler and his driver after stopping their ICRC car at gunpoint in a southern section of Sidon. The Lebanese driver was released shortly afterwards.

Mr. Wingler, who works out of an office in Sidon, arrived in Lebanon two months ago, according to regional security sources. His precise job was not specified.

ICRC officials in Beirut would neither confirm nor deny the abduction of Mr. Wingler.

The city of Sidon is controlled by the Popular Nasirite Organization, a mainly Sunni Muslim organization headed by Mustafa Sa'd.

The gunmen forced Mr. Wingler and his driver to mount with them in a green BMW, police said. [passage omitted]

Talks on Release Continue

NC1711102788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Talks are continuing between a Red Cross delegation and officials in the Popular Nasirite Liberation Army to secure the release of Peter Wingler, a Swiss employee of the Red Cross. Wingler was kidnapped near the city of Sidon this morning as he was riding in a car belonging to the Red Cross and driven by a Lebanese. The gunmen released the driver later on.

Hostage Supported Palestine

NC1711120188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Three masked gunmen today kidnapped Swiss Peter Wingler, head of the Red Cross operations department in southern Lebanon, near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Wingler was riding a Red Cross car when three masked gunmen riding in a green BMW 520 intercepted him. Security sources noted that, most likely, the Swiss official was kidnapped due to his support for the establishment of the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Kidnapping Linked to Request

NC1711132788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A Swiss national today joined the hostages in Lebanon. Peter Wingler was kidnapped in an area south of Sidon today. [passage omitted]

It has been reported that the kidnapping operation is linked with the fundamentalists' request to the International Red Cross to transport the bodies of extremist gunmen who were killed in the security zone. [passage omitted]

Al-Khatib Interviewed on Army, Appointment

NC1611132088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] In an interview with REUTER today, Army Commander Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib declared that he does not object if the Army, which is under his command, is supplied with arms from any side, if this is determined by the government. He added that the armaments policy can only be determined by the government.

He said: I will not object if the government seeks arms from Syria, the United States, the USSR, or the PDRY, because this is part of the government's affairs. What counts is that the government is able to supply me with the Army's requirements.

Brig Gen al-Khatib told REUTER that the security job should only be handled by the Lebanese Army, and that the militias with nationalist trends would remain allies.

To a question about the readiness of leftist and Islamic militia leaders to place their fighters at his disposal or to merge them with the Army, Brig Gen al-Khatib said: I deal with the militias in West Beirut, or rather in all Lebanon, from the framework of nationalist logic. Every militia with a nationalist trend is considered my ally, but not a partner in the job of security.

He went on to say: Security affairs are my job alone, or rather the Lebanese Army's job. I will organize the other militias and their guns in our struggle against the Israeli enemy.

Brig Gen al-Khatib noted that volunteering in the Army is a matter dissociated from the militias. He asked: When I open the door to volunteers and a 20-year-old healthy youth comes to me, why should I not accept him? This is a gain. I am not concerned where this youth comes from, because I am confident that he will become a soldier Lebanon will be proud of.

Brig Gen al-Khatib went on to say that, in reality, there are six Army brigades under his command. However, he added: I will not blame the other brigades which cannot implement my orders. He is here referring to the brigades in East Beirut.

To a question if he will address an appeal to the soldiers in East Beirut to join the brigades under his command, Brig Gen al-Khatib said: I will not make such appeals, because I believe that the Lebanese soldiers, wherever he may be, will come back to me. He added: My problem lies with General Michel 'Awn in al-Yarzah. This man has usurped the post of commander and is partitioning Lebanon, whereas I am unifying the country.

Brig Gen al-Khatib dismissed accusations leveled against him by Christian leaders to the effect that his work is to partition the Army. He said: The decision to appoint me did not specify the number of brigades which are to be under my command. The appointment is not partition.

He asked: Does taking care of the deprived and unorganized brigades which were neglected by the previous command mean partition? He added: Is protecting the people, assuming the Army has a Lebanese nationalist role and preventing the militias from returning to Beirut's streets partition? He answered: If this means partition, then I am a partitionist.

To a question on when the Army will take up the security tasks in West Beirut from the Syrian forces, Brig Gen al-Khatib said: Actually, we cannot set a date for this, because we are still at the beginning of the road. He added: It is understood that the size of the Lebanese Army's responsibility is contingent upon its efficiency. The Syrians had wished in the past that the Lebanese Army would assume their nationalist role in Lebanon.

Confers With Top Army Officers

NC1611182988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib today chaired a meeting at the temporary headquarters in Beirut which was attended by Colonel Lutfi Jabir, director of administration and member of the Military Council; Col 'Abd al-Ra'uf Kanj, commander of the southern military zone; Brig Gen Muhammad al-Haj, commander of the Beirut military zone; Brig Gen Ibrahim Shahin, commander of the Al-Biqa' military zone and 1st Infantry Brigadiers; Col Yahya Ra'd, commander of the 2d Brigade; Brig Gen 'Abd al-Halim Kanj, commander of the 6th Brigade; Col Amin Abu 'Afi, commander of the 11th Brigade; Col Muhammad Sa'd, commander of the 12th Brigade; as well as deputy chiefs of staff; heads of the intelligence and information services; and a large number of officers and heads of various institutions and departments.

Sami al-Khatib began the meeting by recounting the circumstances which surrounded his appointment to the Army command. He recalled that the Army was without a nationalist objective and had to pay for this shortcoming on several occasions, the last of which was open 23 September when the state's three top posts lost their efficacy and the Army was neglected, particularly the brigades which were stationed in the nationalist areas. It therefore became necessary, Al-Khatib said, that a political decision be made to reorganize and rehabilitate the Army and to consolidate its power so that it could take charge of its security duties all over Lebanon.

Al-Khatib said: The task is huge and the purpose is nationalist. If we don't work for the whole country, then we are worthless. Our task is to confront the Israeli scheme with a large nationalist scheme based primarily on the existence of a strong Lebanese Army with a nationalist objective.

Al-Khatib discussed Army affairs with his aides, gave them the necessary instructions, and asked them to live up to their responsibilities at this critical juncture of the country's history.

Discusses Syrian Withdrawal

PM1511162488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed interview with Army Commander Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, whom Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' government has entrusted with commanding the Lebanese Army, has announced that the Syrians have not approached him regarding their forces' withdrawal from Beirut. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-Khatib emphasized that he will organize the Army brigades and appoint a chief of staff, as the position is still vacant, indicating that the dissolution of the militias is linked to a political decision and the general political situation.

The defense minister in the Al-Huss government had regarded the position of army commander as vacant, which is why he entrusted Al-Khatib with assuming its tasks. The position is actually occupied by the Military Government Head General Michel 'Awn. The text of the interview is as follows:

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now that you have been entrusted with the tasks of the Army commander, what steps do you intend to take at the military institutional level?

[Al-Khatib] We have already started taking basic steps by settling temporarily at the headquarters of our new command at the State Security Directorate in the [Spinny's] area. I shall summon brigade commanders and the military zones' commanders to assess their conditions in all respects. Then we will appoint a chief of staff. After that we will take steps to strengthen the position of the military institution. Obviously that job will be a hard one.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it true that the Syrian forces will withdraw from Beirut, leaving the task of maintaining security to the Lebanese Army?

[Al-Khatib] I did not say that the Syrians will withdraw. They [not further identified] misinterpreted my statement. The Syrians are eager to let the Lebanese play their natural role in maintaining security. They are playing a supporting role. This has been Syria's approach ever since its forces entered Lebanon; it has never changed. They want the Lebanese security and military forces to play their natural role in handling Lebanese security. They are merely providing support and backing. They are brothers providing support and backing; and the Lebanese security organs must rise to the level of the task. This is a well-established Syrian approach.

We will not agree to embark of that task before we are capable of carrying it out. The better able we become to do the job, the more our responsibilities will expand. Such an approach is in the interests of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese people, as well as the Syrian Army. As for the Syrian withdrawal issue, it has not been discussed with me. It is a political issue which, if raised, would be dealt with politically.

Originally, the Syrians entered Lebanon in response to a request by Pierre al-Jumayyil, Camille Sham'un, and the Lebanese Front. Then they returned and entered West Beirut in February 1987 at the Islamic leaders' request. I would say that they all walked on their own two feet to Damascus and asked for its forces to enter Lebanon. So the Lebanese must not deal with the Syrians passively as a result of the attitude of a soldier at some Syrian checkpoint or other.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is your appointment linked to a plan to abolish the militias?

[Al-Khatib] No one can abolish the militias. How can the militias of the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party be abolished when the Lebanese Forces militias still exist in the eastern area [of Beirut]. The abolition of the militias is linked to the general political situation. As for our step, it is aimed at correcting the conditions of the military brigades, because they are a source of threat to their command, which is no longer in a position to perform its tasks.

This is why a decision was needed to entrust me with that task so that the Army can continue its work. The step is not a partitionist one. If we organize the Army brigades, we will not be dividing the Army but, rather, serving the Lebanese citizen, Lebanon, and its Army.

The militias would be our allies if they fought with us against Israel. Some are already our allies. We fight in the same trench with them against Israel. Abolishing the militias is linked to a political solution. It does not fall under the powers of the Army commander. I have no power to discuss the dissolution of the militias. My job is to implement the politicians' decisions, and I bear the consequences of what they decide.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why did you set a 2-month period for carrying out the task assigned to you?

[Al-Khatib] The time limit is not important. What is important is that we implement the measures we are to take; and this will take less than 2 months.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you intend to open the door to voluntary military service within the framework of your measures to organize the brigades?

[Al-Khatib] Volunteering depends on organizational outlook and political decisions. If we find that this is needed and we have the ability to implement it, we would not hesitate to do so.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has initiated examinations for admission to the war school within Brigade 11 at the Lebanese Army's Hammana Barracks. Has this been discussed with you?

[Al-Khatib] I read the news in the newspapers, but I have not yet been briefed on the details. I will try to establish the truth of this because it is a military matter and it is my business to know the facts in this regard so that I can determine our position on it.

12th Brigade Rebels Over Al-Khatib Appointment

NC1611123788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] According to exclusive reports from the South, a state of rebellion prevails among the officers of the 12th Brigade. They are opposed to the appointment of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib as commander of the brigades in the occupied areas. According to these reports, the officers consider that the appointment of Al-Khatib to this post may lead to the partition of the homeland, and they emphasize their adherence to a united Lebanon.

7th Brigade Opposes Appointment

NC1711134788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The partitionist step taken by giving Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib command of the brigades in the occupied areas has met with increasing opposition emphasizing rejection of this step and the seriousness of its dimension.

According to fresh information, a state of unrest is prevailing in 7th Brigade after Al-Khatib was appointed to command the Army brigades in the occupied areas. It has been reported that the 7th Brigade personnel are threatening to prevent Al-Khatib from entering the Smar Jubayl barracks should he decide to visit it.

According to information from the South yesterday, a state of mutiny prevails among the officers of the 12th Brigade in Sidon. The officers believe that Al-Khatib's appointment could lead to partition.

Meanwhile, the 6th Brigade roadblock in Al-'Ijjah in Al-Barbir is preventing military personnel from going to the eastern area and taking down their names, ranks, and the units and barracks to which they belong. It is doing so on orders issued by Brig Gen al-Khatib. The status of these personnel will be studied in preparation for making them join Al-Khatib's alleged Army.

Deputy Dahir Cited on Presidential Program

PM1611104888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Nov 88 p3

[Unattributed interview with Deputy Mikha'il Dahir in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it true that you published a presidential program containing a number of agreements with Syria within the framework of special relations with it?

[Dahir] Let me first explain that we in Lebanon have been in a state of civil war for more than 13 years. Of course we must accept that a sizeable section of the Lebanese people are urging the introduction of fundamental reforms of the political structure. This has been confined particularly to basic areas concerning political sectarianism, participation in power, relations with fraternal and friendly states, as well as a unified vision to end the war quickly.

Over a 13-year period numerous plans, ideas, and proposals have been put forward by influential Lebanese elements; and these have been discussed and examined by all parties as well as fraternal and friendly states, especially Syria and the United States. I personally took part in viewing, considering, and discussing all these plans, including the constitutional document, the axioms drawn up during President Ilyas Sarkis' era, the Lausanne and Geneva plans, as well as the tripartite agreement and subsequent plans drawn up during President Amin al-Jumayyil's era. From all these I was able to form a comprehensive overview which I believe includes all the views the Lebanese people would agree on.

This overview (program) centers on how to stop the war as a first step. Then it deals with the political sectarianism issue, participation in political decisionmaking, and finally the issue of relations between Lebanon and fraternal and friendly states, including special ties between Lebanon and its close sister, Syria.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Tell us first how the war will be ended according to your program?

[Dahir] I said in the program that a maximum period of 1 year must be set for ending the war in Lebanon, starting from the date a government is formed. Ending the war requires the adoption of an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire; the opening of crossing points and passages; a halt on arms and ammunition supplies by land, sea, and air; and the dissolution of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, as well as military and paramilitary organizations. This is in addition to collecting weapons of every kind from the Lebanese and non-Lebanese living on Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does this include the Palestinians?

[Dahir] Yes.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] We have noticed that your program does not include any remedy to the problem of the Palestinian armed presence, whereas some Lebanese believe that this armed presence was a notable reason for the eruption of the Lebanese war.

[Dahir] There is Lebanese unanimity on the fact that the Palestinian cause is one of the most important and honorable Arab causes. Lebanon has made great sacrifices in this regard. It spares no effort in defending that cause at every Arab and international forums. But at the same time there is Lebanese agreement that the military chaos that has prevailed among the Palestinian brothers in Lebanon has caused great harm to both Lebanon and the Palestinian cause.

We are for any comprehensive Arab strategy aimed at restoring Palestinian rights. But as of today we are against any unilateral military actions in Lebanon. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies expressed this position unanimously when it abolished the Cairo agreement and its appendixes.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What do you mean by "we"?

[Dahir] I mean the Lebanese people and the Chamber of Deputies, of which I am a member.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us return to the question of how your program will end the Lebanese war....

[Dahir] The security tasks broached by the program are to be assumed by a high-level security committee comprising the Lebanese interior minister as chairman, and the Lebanese Army commander, the director general of the internal security forces, and two officers from the Syrian Armed Forces operating in Lebanon as members. The committee will be granted security and military powers to enable it to carry out the task of ending the war according to a comprehensive plan to be endorsed by the Lebanese Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Basically your opponents say that your reform program includes certain concessions to Syria. What is your reply?

[Dahir] Such talk is absolute constitutional and legal heresy and is entirely untrue. This is because the president of the Republic or, rather, the presidential candidate, has no powers to make concessions over anything that concerns sovereignty or territory. The right to make concessions depends solely on the mother constitutional institution, namely, the Chamber of Deputies, and the approval of the overwhelming majority of its members, as stipulated by the Constitution. [passage omitted]

In this regard I am anxious to stress that Syria is unlikely to ask Lebanon to forfeit a single inch of its territory or make any concessions over sovereignty. In fact the opposite is the case: Since the war started it has sacrificed men, money, and equipment to stop the bloodshed among the sons of this one people and to help provide an atmosphere of security and stability in most of the Lebanese areas. Furthermore, it resolutely and forcefully confronts all the malicious attempts to partition Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Hails Proclamation of Palestinian State

NC1611203388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has welcomed the proclamation of a Palestinian state, saying he hopes the move will be the first step toward liberation and the return [of Palestinians to their homeland], which he said are the most basic demands connected with the Palestinian issue.

Commenting tonight on the PNC resolutions concerning the proclamation of a Palestinian state, Al-Huss said: It is quite natural that the proclamation of the Palestinian state draw such a wide support from brotherly Arab countries and other friendly nations. The right of the Palestinian people to a state on their own land is undeniable. We welcome the move and hope that it will be the beginning of liberation and return. There is no doubt that this is the first fruit of the blessed Palestinian uprising. This is an occasion on which we wish the uprising more success in its triumphant struggle.

Asked about recognition of the Palestinian state, Al-Huss said: Recognition is natural. It will be on the agenda of the first cabinet meeting.

Fadlallah Comments on Palestinian Decision

NC1711083588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut]

[Text] Lebanon's Islamic circles have reacted strongly to the treacherous decisions adopted by the so-called Palestine National Council in Algeria. The most important of stands on the recognition of Israel by Yasir 'Arafat and his associates, which was stated in the declaration of a Palestinian government in exile [as heard], has been adopted by Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

Speaking on this topic, Scholar Fadlallah said: These decisions are actually concessions by Palestinian organizations to Israel, since Israel is recognized in return for the declaration of a government [as heard] fwithout a territory and without a clear political future, while the Zionist regime has not admitted the existence of such a government.

The Lebanese clergyman added: This decision falls within the sphere of the political plan which is designed to keep the Palestinians in a dream and prevent them from fulfilling their basic ideal. He pointed out that the decisions that were adopted during a so-called special congress to study the Palestinian people's uprising are the biggest blow to the uprising of the people living in the occupied territories. We, the Muslims, do not accept such compromising steps in any way, because from our point of view this move is tantamount to ignoring the movement of the Palestinian people and the movement of the Muslims of the world for the annihilation of the legal existence of Israel and of the (?reality) of Israel.

The grouping of the Lebanese Islamic 'ulema has also issued a statement in which it strongly criticizes the decisions adopted by the Palestinians' recent conference in Algeria, describing them as a stab in the back for the Palestinian strugglers and the world's (?freedom seekers). It states that the recognition of Israel and renunciation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 constitute the biggest deviation from and greatest treason against the ideal of Palestine and its risen people.

The statement adds: The so-called Palestine National Council and other similar bodies do not have the right to recognize the existence of the Zionist regime or to renounce even an inch of Palestinian land. The [words indistinct] is the will of God Almighty, as God Almighty points out in the holy Koran. Palestine is Islamic and will preserve its Islamic character.

In conclusion, the statement says: After this overt treason, the PLO is not worthy to represent the Palestinian nation. The true representatives of this nation who have not gone along with 'Arafat should continue the armed struggle until the liberation of Palestine.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut.

Syrian-Saudi Summit To Review Situation

NC1711072088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] According to the ARAB WORLD weekly, behind-the-scenes exchanges are currently taking place to arrange the convocation of a Syrian-Saudi summit on the Lebanese situation. The weekly adds that King Husayn of Jordan might take part in this summit, which will be held in Riyadh.

Syria Welcomes Sfayr-Brokered Solution

NC1711072588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr is due to return from the Vatican today. [passage omitted] An atmosphere of optimism has surrounded the outcome of the visit, and sources of the patriarchate seat indicated that the patriarch will return at 1700 today. The sources said that Patriarch Sfayr is expected to conduct intensive exchanges and consultations with Lebanese political and spiritual leaders on the results of his meetings in the Vatican.

Meanwhile, pro-Syrian sources have told the newspaper AL-AMWAR that Damascus would welcome Patriarch Sfayr to act as the godfather of an agreement on a new president and a solution to the Lebanese crisis. However, according to our diplomatic correspondent, Syria has informed the Arab states, and through them Washington, that a solution in Lebanon is contingent upon the attainment of political reforms. Syria believes that presidential elections would naturally take place when such reforms are effected.

According to political sources in West Beirut, Damascus has told its allies that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi agrees with the Syrian stand. Damascus informed its allies that any meeting to discuss the Lebanese crisis should be based on the attainment of political reforms.

New Group Claims Killing of Syrian Soldier

NC1711071388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] An anonymous person has called our radio to claim that the Lebanese Jihad Organization [Munazzmat al-Jihad al-Lubnani] has killed one Syrian soldier and injured another with a pistol equipped with a silencer between the Cola Circle and Corniche al-Mazra'ah at 2330 last night. The caller added that the Syrian forces shortly afterward raided and searched certain houses and erected roadblocks in the area.

Amal Attacks Lahd, Israeli Forces

NC1611173988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] In the resisting South, Amal fighters of the Lebanese resistance groups have detonated an explosive charge on the Al-Qantarah Road as a joint patrol from the Israeli enemy forces and their agent militias was passing. A vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded.

The enemy radio admitted attacks by the resistance on two positions of Lahd agent militias. Meanwhile, the enemy forces are pursuing their heavy-handed policies in the occupied border strip, as well as their attacks on the liberated areas.

In another development, a delegation of the enemy's army officers has been touring the agent Lahd positions in Jazzin since 0930 today. The delegation, which is led by the commander of the so-called liaison unit in the South, General (Ze'ev Zakharin), inspected the Kafr Falus area, which was the scene of a failed operation by Lahd militias late last month.

According to Lebanese Forces sources, (Zakharin) held a meeting with officers of the agent militias, security officials, and town mayors in the Gazzin area. Details and the outcome of that meeting are not known.

Official Statement Supports Palestinian State

Damascus Radio on Support

JN1611185288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] In Damascus, a responsible source announced this evening Syria's support for the establishment of the Palestinian state. The source said: Syria has always called on world public opinion to support our just struggle waged for the sake of the Palestinian cause and to express this support through reconizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state in Palestine.

Hence, it is natural for Syria to support the establishment of the Palestinian state as this step converges with its policy, the Arab summit resolutions, and international legitimacy.

The source added: The Palestinian Arab people have affirmed—through their brave uprising—their rejection of the Israeli occupation and their adherence to their national rights. Syria believes that unifying the Palestinian arena on solid militant grounds and supporting the popular uprising and the Arab resistance to the Israeli occupation is the proper way to regain the territories and extricate the national rights.

Damascus TV Carries Statement

JN1611193288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1844 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

Syria has been aware of the objectives and covetousness of the Zionist movement since it was established. Syria has confronted—throughout the past years and is still confronting—these objectives and covetousness. Syria waged the Arab-Israeli conflict in its various stages, knowing that it was defending pan-Arab existence in the Arab homeland—threatened by establishment of the greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

In this conflict, Syria shouldered great burdens and sacrifices, sacrificing blood, efforts, and money to confront an enemy who is determined to implement his expansionist schemes and impose his hegemony and existence on the entire region using all methods, foremost of which are military force and unlimited support from imperialist forces. This enabled the enemy to usurp a part of Palestine and then all of Palestine and other parts of Arab territory.

Syria's policy in confronting the Zioinist enemy is based on its understanding of Israel's objectives and its continuous endeavor to possess the means to achieve these objectives. Syria believes that the conflict with this enemy is not over partial issues but is a pan-Arab conflict over the existence of the nation and the future of its generations. Consequently, this conflict calls on Arab countries to mobilize their potentials and concentrate their major efforts in this conflict.

It has become clear, in light of the Israeli enemy's schemes and objectives, that the offering of concessions will only lead to further intransigence and insistence on its aggressive and expansionist policies.

It has also become obvious that the pressures being exerted on the Arabs to offer concession after concession have enabled Israel to gain big advantages that have been used toward aggression and war without making one step toward peace.

Out of its perception of the dynamics and nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria has always called for highlighting the Palestinian national identity to defeat Zionist allegations. Syria has also struggled for the sake of realizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state on their national soil. These rights, and the materialization of full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, constitute a political and material bulwark in the face of Israeli expansion.

Syria has always called on world public opinion to support our just struggle waged for the sake of the Palestinian cause and to express this support through reconizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state in Palestine.

Hence, it is natural for Syria to support the establishment of the Palestinian state as this step converges with its policy, the Arab summit resolutions, and international legitimacy.

The Palestinian Arab people have affirmed—through their brave uprising—their rejection of Israeli occupation and their adherence to their national rights. Syria believes that unifying the Palestinian arena on solid militant grounds and supporting the popular uprising and the Arab resistance to the Israeli occupation is the proper way to regain the territories and extricate the national rights.

Rally Marks 'Corrective Movement' Anniversary

JN1611204688 [Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic, in a hookup with Damascus Domestic Service, at 1505 GMT on 16 November begins a live relay of a speech rally held by the Damascus branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party at Damascus University Auditorium on the 18th anniversary of the 16 November corrective movement. The rally begins at 1507 GMT with the participants singing the Ba'th Party anthem.

At 1512 GMT, Shakir al-Sayyid, vice president of the Revolution Youths Union, delivers a speech on behalf of the popular organizations. He praises the anniversary and stresses the importance of the corrective movement. He praises the achievements reached in Syria under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad and asserts that Syria has extended assistance to its Arab brothers, particularly in Lebanon. He says that popular organizations must increase efforts to strengthen the material basis for modern Syria.

At 1529 GMT, poet Najib Jamal al-Din delivers verses of Arabic poetry praising the anniversary and Hafiz al-Asad.

At 1557 GMT, Safwan Qudsi, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria, delivers a speech on behalf of the National Progressive Front. He begins by praising the role played by Hafiz al-Asad in the building of modern Syria. He says the corrective movement was a qualitative change that reformed Syria's political, economic, cultural, and social map. He says that the Al-Asad's leadership has proved that it is the most competent leadership to lead the Arab struggle.

At 1620 GMT, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, delivers a speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He reviews the achievements accomplished in Syria under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad. He stresses that the 8 March revolution has laid the cornerstone for all achievements in Syria and that the 16 November corrective movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, restored liveliness to the revolution.

Al-Ahmar says: "Comrades, our pride in our achievements accomplished after the corrective movement does not mean that we have achieved everything we desire. Our hopes are greater than what has been achieved. Despite their greatness and importance, what has been achieved is still less than our ambition. Our surmounting of the problems that faced our party and people and that were present before the correction movement does not mean that problems have ended in the revolution's march. In the past years, new problems—different from those that faced us before—faced us in our revolutionary march. The biggest part of those present problems are economic ones. They are, as described by our leader Hafiz al-Asad, temporary problems that can be treated and overcome. Some time ago, party and government leaderships confronted these problems in order to treat them. This treatment began to take its practical course and we are optimistic that we can overcome them."

Al-Ahmar also says: "Comrades, under the canopy of the corrective movement, our party has understood Arab realities with their contradictions. It determined the priorities in its dealing with this reality—with its states and popular forces—on the basis that conflict against the Zionist enemy and adherence to the Palestinian cause as a central cause for the pan-Arab struggle represents the main object of the Arab nation's struggle. Our party has determined its stands on all developments in the Arab arena through its commitment to settling this conflict in favor of our nation. Due to this stand and commitment, our party and country still face pressures at times, and conspiracies at others. Our country also faces a threat of aggression from Zionism and its expansionist, racist, and aggressive entity, which occupies Arab lands. It is threatened by imperialism—the ally and backer of Zionism—in addition to forces of reaction and capitulation, which found in our revolution the uncoverer of their plots and a firm base for confronting the enemies' plots and a main obstacle that prevents these plots from achieving their goals of hegemony and control over our Arab world and our Arab nation's resources. These forces are moving against our country as cheap tools within the framework of the enemies' plots.

"Comrades, under the shadow of the blessed corrective movement, under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, our country has massed all of its resources to confront the continuous Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, to liberate the occupied Arab territories, and to restore the Palestinian people's inalienable legitimate rights, particularly their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil."

Al-Ahmar also says: "Syria continued its firm principled stand in the service of the causes of Arab struggle and confronting the nation's enemies. Its commitment to the Palestinian cause remained constant. It expressed this in its insistence on the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territory and the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable legitimate rights. It considered this the main base for achieving any just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the region through an effective international conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all sides to the conflict in the region. It also asserted that the achievement of strategic parity is the way to achieve this peace and to deter aggression."

Al-Ahmar concludes his speech at 1657 GMT.

The rally concludes at 1658 GMT with the participants singing the Ba'th Party anthem.

Cabinet Holds Session, Hears Political Report

JN1511160288 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA)—The Council of Ministers held a session here today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to discuss the positive results of the recent Syrian-Romanian talks in Damascus and the importance of these talks in developing economic, trade, and technical cooperation between Syria and Romania.

The Council of Ministers also made a political review and heard a report from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the overall political developments both in the Arab and international arenas as well as the Lebanese situation, the Palestine question, and Arab and international contacts.

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on Syria's principled support for the uprising and the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. Al-Shar' also referred to the outcome of a number of international and regional developments, which stresses Syria's political vision and the credibility of its pan-Arab strategy.

Reportage on Visit of Tunisian Trade Minister

Meets Economic Official

JN1311093488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received at 1900 yesterday Moncef Belaid, Tunisian minister of industry and trade.

They reviewed bilateral economic and trade relations and ways to develop and diversify them. They agreed to work in this direction to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation in various spheres, especially agriculture, industry, and tourism.

The Tunisian minister affirmed the pioneering and constructive role being played by Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in defense of the Arab nation. He also asserted Syria's pioneering role in the domain of economic and social development.

Visits Al-Zu'bi

JN1311132388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at noon today recieved Tunisian Trade and Industry Minister Moncef Belaid in the presence of Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and external trade. The meeting was also attended by the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus and Syrian ambassador in Tunis.

At the beginning of the meeting, Belaid conveyed greetings of Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche to the prime minister. Al-Zu'bi also conveyed his greetings to Baccouche.

During the meeting, they discussed fraternal bilateral relations, especially in the fields of economy, trade, and means of promoting and developing them.

Confers With Al-Ahmar

JN1311212488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 nov 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Moncef Belaid, Tunisia's trade and industry minister. The Tunisian ambassador in Damascus and Syrian ambassador in Tunis were present.

They discussed cooperation between Syria and the Destourian Democratic Rally and the prospect for further developing it in various spheres in keeping with a shared desire by the two countries' leaderships.

The Tunisian minister said he was impressed by the achievements Syria has made under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He noted Syria's pan-Arab role in confronting the Zionist enemy and in assisting Lebanon in its struggle to regain its national unity within the context of its Arab affiliation and liberating its occupied territory as well as forestalling attempts to dominate and partition the country.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

JN1411143288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Moncef Belaid, Tunisian industry and trade minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this morning after a 3-day official visit to Syria during which he held talks with several ministers to promote and develop economic, trade, and touristic cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

At the conclusion of the visit, the two sides held a meeting at the Central Bank to sign the minutes of the meetings and talks held by the Syrian-Tunisian joint committee for economic, scientific, and trade cooperation. The Syrian side was led by the minister of economy and external trade; the Tunisian side was led by Belaid, Tunisian industry and trade minister. Representatives of ministries, competent sides, and the chambers of commerce union as well as the members of the two delegations and the two countries' ambassadors in Damascus and Tunis also participated in the meeting.

The minutes include a review of the overall economic, industrial, and trade cooperation. The two sides also agreed to specify the areas of this cooperation and ways to promote it within the framework of the brotherly relations between the two countries. The minutes were signed by the minister of economy and external trade on the Syrian side and by the industry and trade minister on the Tunisian side. The two countries' ambassadors and the members of the two delegations attended the ceremony.

Afghanistan

Recognition of Palestine Government Announced

LD1611190888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Republic of Afghanistan has officially recognized the independent Government of Palestine which was recently announced at the extraordinary session of Palestine National Council.

This statement by the Republic of Afghanistan was given to the charge d'affaires of the PLO Embassy in Kabul. [passage omitted]

'Abdul Wakil Letter to UN Security Council

LD1611143288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Letter to the president of the UN Security Council from Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil delivered by UN representative Shah Muhammad Dost on 14 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr President: Regarding the situation following the conclusion of the Geneva agreement—on resolving the situation around Afghanistan—which was signed on 14 April 1988, I am authorized on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan to bring to your attention and that of the esteemed Security Council members a number of concerns and views of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The period that has elapsed since the signing of the Geneva Accords clearly indicates the fact that aggression and interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan have intensified in an unprecedented manner. This interference is being led, organized, and advanced by Pakistan and from that country's territory. This interference has taken several forms: the infiltration of armed bands into Afghanistan, the participation of Pakistani citizens in organizing the Afghan armed opposition groups to carry out terrorist actions against the existing regime of the Republic of Afghanistan, the all-round and undeviated (?provocation) of the extremist bands inside Afghanistan, and the spreading of hostile radio and press propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan.

These actions not only contravene the principles of noninterference and nonintervention in each others' affairs, but also openly violate the accords and the UN Charter. At the same time, these actions on the part of Pakistan completely contravene the text and spirit of the UN General Assembly Resolution of 3 November 1988 regarding Afghanistan, which was unanimously approved by all UN members. It is worth mentioning that with the signing of the Geneva accords, the Government of Pakistan pledged that its territory should in no way and under no pretext be used in any manner (?leading) to the [word indistinct] of the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of the signatory parties or the disruption of their political, social, or economic stability.

Moreover, the Government of Pakistan pledged that it would prevent armed interference, subversion, and any other form of open or covert interference. Pakistan also stated that it would refrain from any action or attempt, in whatever form and under whatever pretext, to [words indistinct] or disrupt the stability of the other signatory party or any one of its [word indistinct], and would prevent the presence of individuals and of political, technical, and every other kind of group, and their stationing at any camps bases, or other sites for the purpose of organizing, training, equipping, and infiltrating [words indistinct] for purposes of subversion, disorder, and disruption in the territory of the high contracting parties. It also pledged to refrain from allowing such individuals and groups to use the mass media or to transfer weapons and ammunition.

It is with regret we note that Pakistan, as a member of the UN organization and as one of the priniple signatories of the UN accords, does not respect its pledges. On the contrary, it overlooks the peace-seeking role of the United Nations. Interference by Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has brought about not only increasing threats to the national sovereignty of Afghanistan, but has endangered peace and security in and around Afghanistan. In addition, these actions have limited the role of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Such actions have created obstacles in the way of efforts to opening a dialogue and negotiations with the opposition in order to form a broad-based government in Afghanistan, as enshrined in Article 8 of the UN General Assembly resolution dated 3 November 1988.

Considering this situation, the Afghan Government refers to you Mr President, and to the Security Council members, in hopes that you will demand that Pakistan observe its obligations regarding the 14 April 1988 agreements and respect the UN secretary general's current efforts to resolve peacefully the situation in and around Afghanistan. We request that the Security Council take effective, collective measures to prevent and eliminate the existing threat to peace in Afghanistan and ask Pakistan to stop its intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

We ask the UN Security Council to assess the process of implementing the Geneva accords. The Republic of Afghanistan believes that the Security Council, in consideration of the fact that as a result of the current interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the situation around Afghanistan and in Southwest Asia as a whole would aggravate and the continuation of such interfering actions could negate peace in the region and would have international (?dispute). [sentence as heard]

The Republic of Afghanistan does not want to solve matters by military means because we condemn such (?actions), but we must take measures for our defense.

The Afghan Government, while supporting the efforts of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, asks the Security Council to intervene in this regard and also to prevent the further deterioration of the situation.

Mr Chairman, it would please me if the Security Council, in consideration of the urgency of the matter, would assess the situation around Afghanistan and inform the Afghan Government of its measures.

[Signed] 'Abdul Wakil, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan

Hikmatyar Comments on Election 'Preparation'

LD1011201388 Hamburg DPA in German 1144 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Leading representatives of the Afghan resistance movement have described Soviet statements about delaying the withdrawal of their troops as "empty threats." Representatives of the mujahidin, who were visiting the Bundestag in Bonn on Thursday, announced their determination to continue the fight against the Soviet troops because Moscow has refused to recognize the right to self-determination.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chairman of the Hezb-e Eslami organization, stated that 90 percent of Afghan territory is already controlled by the mujahidin and that free elections are currently in preparation, which should lead to a parliamentary system. After the Soviet withdrawal, the "puppet government" will "be swept away."

Refugee Representatives 'Refute' Alliance Council

LD1611103788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 14 BAKHTAR—Recently over two hundred representatives of refugees living in Sob-e Sarhad and Baluchistan in a gathering held in Quetta have strongly refuted the formation of a so-called 400-person council which has been proposed by the "seven-alliance".

Representatives of Afghan refugees in the gathering approved a resolution and have regarded the ringleaders of extremist groups stationed in Pakistan without such discretion to make such decisions. The participants stated that they took decision six times in Pakistan and once in great Mecca regarding their coalition and solidarity. Similarly, one year ago, they also created for personal benefit a so-called high council and embarked upon terrorism through it. Contrary to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam they obtained huge amounts of money and now they have set forth another ridiculous show.

Refugees' representatives added that they will not allow anybody to play with the fate of the people and to usurp the people's rights by the creation of the so-called councils.

They have called for the formation of a broad-based government in which experienced persons should take part and the refugees return to their homeland. This makes it possible for all to make decision about their socio-economic and political system through the convention of a Loya Jirgah, grand assembly.

120th Note on Pakistani Violations Submitted

LD1611104388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 14 BAKHTAR—The one hundred twentieth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan from the Geneva agreements was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission (UNGOMAP) here today.

The notice asks UNGOMAP to investigate instances of the said violations and bring the results to the attention of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of UN secretary general.

121st Note Handed to UN Group

LD1611211588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 15, BAKHTAR—The 121st notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP.

The notice underlined five instances of violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords. The notice provided adequate information about the sending of assorted weapons by Pakistan into the territory of Afghanistan enabling the terrorist for the continuation of subversive activities. [sentence as received]

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general's representative.

6 Journalists Injured on Jalalabad Highway

LD1611174688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A BIA military correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that warmongering extremist groups today attacked a number of foreign journalists who, under the aegis of the Foreign Ministry press center, were preparing a report on the crushing of extremist groups along the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway. Six journalists were injured. Among the injured are journalists from the Soviet Union, France, Japan, and India. Their condition is not critical and they were transfered to Kabul this evening for observation.

'Pakistani Adviser' Captured in Nangarhar

LD1611203588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section, citing authorized sources of the Armed Forces, reports: In the last 24 hours the country's Armed Forces carried out successful combat operations in various regions and captured a Pakistani adviser in Nangarhar Province. Following combat operations in Nangarhar Province yesterday, 80 extremists were crushed and 30 were injured. In addition, during the operation around the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway 1 recoilless gun, 1 86mm gun, 1 DShK, 294 mortar mines, and 21 boxes of assorted ammunition were seized.

Following an operation yesterday by the Armed Forces in Towr Kotal region of Qandahar Province, 53 extremist elements were crushed and 9 of their hideouts were destroyed. During the operation two rocket units, one BM-14 unit, one MC- type gun, two rocket launchers, one mortar, and two heavy machineguns were seized. The Armed Forces destroyed 4 weapons and ammunition caches, 2 clothing stores, 5 mortars, 7 DShK's, 6 recoilless guns, and 26 strongholds of the extremists.

According to report from Qandahar Province, the Armed Forces dealt blows at the extremists' gathering places in Panjwai and Arghandab Districts, crushing 23 extremists and injuring 17.

A report from Paktia Province states that as a result of the Armed Forces' mopping-up operations around the city of Gardeyz and in Zarmal and Seyyed Karam Districts 58 extremist elements were crushed and 48 were injured. In this action two guns, five DShK's, three mortars, and one rocket unit belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

Some 20 extremist war-mongering individuals, who were attempting to disrupt peace and security in Balkh District, Balkh Province, were crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces. As a result of this operation 40 surface-to-surface missiles, 45 mortars, and thousands of rounds of ammunition for light weapons were seized. Also 1 rocket unit, 1 mortar, 10 rocket launchers, and 1 cache of weapons and ammunition were destroyed. Some 40 antivehicle and antipersonnel mines were discovered and detonated.

A report from Badakhshan Province states that as a result of an Armed Forces operation around Feyzabad yesterday 15 extremists were crushed and 10 were injured. In this operation 1 rocket launcher, 1 heavy machinegun, 1 communication unit, and 30 boxes of assorted types of ammunition were seized.

In the last 24 hours aerial and artillery attacks have been launched against the dens of extremist elements in Lowgar, Paktia, Herat, Samangan, and Konduz Provinces. As a result 18 criminals have been crushed and 89 injured. In these operations two caches of weapons and ammunition, two trucks carrying weapons and ammunition, and a number of strongholds of the extremists were destroyed.

Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Successes

BK1611155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly carried out a successful attack on the Kabul regime's operations headquarters in Nangarhar Province on 12 November, killing or wounding a large number of Kabul troops. Three Kabul regime posts were also captured. On the same day, the mujahidin attacked Kabul troops near Matun in Paktia Province and killed six soldiers.

In another operation near the city of Qandahar and the airport on 13 and 14 November, the mujahidin foiled several Kabul regime attacks aimed at recapturing (Koh Kotal). Forty-six Kabul troops were killed and four tanks and six vehicles, including arms and ammunition, were captured. Two posts and an ammunition dump were destroyed in the same area.

On 13 November, the mujahidin also attacked a military post near Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province and killed 20 Kabul troops and captured a post.

Sharq Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD1611211388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A session of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was held this morning at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. The session discussed a number of issues on the agenda and necessary decisions were made.

A report by a commission on the implementation of the socio-economic plan and a report on the realization of income and expenses of the government budget in the first half of 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] were presented at today's session and the necessary decisions were made.

At today's session discussion was also held on a proposal by the Ministry of Planning on establishing a resettlement commission and a mixed professional commission for designing policies and studying the issues of settlement. A working commission was appointed under the chairmanship of Planning Minister Sultan Husayn.

The appointment of employees of ministries and departments in the respective agencies abroad was discussed at today's session of the Council of Ministers. It was decided that when an employee is appointed in the

country's relevant agency abroad, he must spend a minimum of 2-3 years with that ministry. He cannot stay more than 3 years in his post in the agency abroad. [passage omitted]

U.S., Pakistan Urged To 'Reconsider' Position

LD1711070488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 17 Nov 88

["Commentary—U.S. Fish in Troubled Water"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 16, BAKHTAR—Does intensity of war activities in Afghanistan means that the prospect of the ensurance of peace and fulfilment of Geneva agreements are affected? Evaluations of some political observers in this respect seem to be hasty.

In most parts of Afghanistan military encounters are intensified and the war has got new dimensions. The extremists as a result of the return of fifty per cent of Soviet contingents back to the Soviet Union attempted to capture cities and provinces evacuated by the said contingents.

Zabol, Kowt-e 'Ashrow, Konduz, Paktia, Qandahar and Nangarhar came under the attacks of the extremists one by one. Months before dates for the occupation of large provinces such as Qandahar and Nangarhar were (?fixed) in Peshawar. According to the calculations of the extremists after capturing any of the said provinces it was planned that it should become military operational centre of the extremists. In case of the fulfilling of such a plan the spot of blame of violations by Pakistan from the Geneva agreement would have been eliminated.

The oppositions were and still are in this opinion that an accelerated military victory is far better from a political solution. From the point of view of the "seven groups" this principle seems logical.

Kabul without refraining from its striving for peace, it has not ignored war menace at all. If the question is to continue war through the showing of power, as experiences have shown in recent months, we are also ready for it. But political realism compel patriotic groups that they should realise real values of political activity in this end.

The opposition must understand that it is facing with a powerful force equipped with modern armaments and is to be armed even further in future.

The defeat of extremists in Qandahar and Nangarhar Provinces are examples of these facts. Results of such menaces would end to the prolongation of war in the country.

These days the end of the string [words indistinct] in the hands of those who persuade one sidedly the opposition to continue bloody war in Afghanistan. The aim of this American trick is to fish in blood water. A great country like the United States must not establish its policy for the solution of regional issues on deception.

When in the White House talks on supporting political solution around Afghanistan are raised, in practice the extremists are merely encouraged to continue war and bloodshed in the Afghan land.

Elections started in Pakistan today. A few days later George Bush will take office in the United States.

The world people hope that the new American and Pakistani leaderships reconsider their interventionist polices against Afghanistan. Obeyance from the life order [as received] is the duty of real politicians. This fact must be realised there beyond the oceans (in the U.S.). The politicals in Peshawar must find their way towards a logical life as well.

India

Full Recognition Accorded to Palestinian State

BK1611125788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] India has decided to accord full recognition to the newly declared state of Palestine. This was announced by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, amid cheers in both houses of Parliament today. Making a statement, he expressed the hope that the Palestinians will succeed in the restoration of their land and assertion of their sovereignty. Mr Rao pointed out that denial to the Palestinians of their just rights and illegal occupation of their homeland have been strongly condemned by successive parliaments. India has been single-mindedly working toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. We share the happiness of Palestinians on this auspicious day, he said.

Gandhi Sends Message to 'Arafat

BK1611161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] India has accorded full recognition to the newly declared state of Palestine. This was announced in both houses of Parliament today. In a message to the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, conveyed the government's decision extending the formal recognition. Mr Gandhi said an independent state of Palestine has been our cherished and single-minded objective all these years. We share the happiness of the Palestinian people on this auspicious day. The prime minister said we are conscious that it is not the end of the struggle. It is nevertheless an important milestone on the path to meeting the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians within and outside the occupied territories. We wish you all success in your task of achieving the logical culmination of this declaration, the restoration of Palestinian land, and the assertion of Palestinian sovereignty.

Mr Gandhi said India will continue to extend wholehearted support to the efforts to activate early peace negotiations for a just and comprehensive settlement within the framework of a UN-sponsored international conference. He conveyed heartiest felicitations to Chairman 'Arafat.

Making the announcement in both houses of Parliament amid cheers, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, expressed the hope that Palestinians will succeed in the restoration of their land and assertion of their sovereignty. He pointed out the denial to Palestinians of their just rights and illegal occupation of their homeland have been strongly condemned by successive parliaments. All shades of public and political opinion in the country have been expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspirations.

Spokesman Assesses Upcoming Gorbachev Visit

BK1711032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, arrives in new Delhi tomorrow on a 3-day official visit to this country. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the visit will reinforce the close political and economic relationship between India and the Soviet Union.

Mr Gorbachev will have four rounds of talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The talks will touch upon all aspects of bilateral relations and issues of regional and global importance. Mr Gorbachev will also meet the president and the vice president.

Other highlights of the visit are presentation of Indira Gandhi International Awards for Peace and Disarmament to the Soviet leader, signing of various documents, and closing function of the year-long Soviet festival in India.

Trade Protocol for 1989 Signed With USSR

BK1711032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] India's trade with the Soviet Union is to go up to 7,000 crore rupees by next year. This represents a 35 percent increase over the current year's trade turnover. The India-Soviet trade protocol for 1989 signed in New Delhi yesterday envisages a substantial rise in Indian exports to the USSR. The Soviet Union will also increase the supply of crude oil and oil products.

Further on Visit of Cambodian Prime Minister

Meets With Gandhi

BK1611161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Kampuchean prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, had an hour-long meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, was also present during the talks. Mr Hun Sen arrived this morning on a 2-day official visit. He will hold discussions with Indian leaders on the nonaligned initiative on the Kampuchean problem.

Calls on President Venkataraman

BK1711090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] The Kampuchean prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, accompanied by his wife, Mrs (Bun Seng-Hin), called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] this morning. A spokesman said it was a courtesy call.

The Kampuchean prime minister apprised the president of his discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao.

6 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK1411130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, six hard-core terrorists and four of their harborers were arrested in Faridkot District last night. According to the district police chief, the arrests were made following raids on their hideouts. One AK-47 Chinese assault rifle, a foreign-made revolver, two pistols, and some ammunition have been recovered.

During the interrogation, the terrorists confessed of their involvement in a number of killings and other crimes.

10 Die in Sikh Separatist Violence in Punjab

BK1511143488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15 (AFP)—Additional security forces have been rushed to Punjab as fresh Sikh separatist violence in the northern Indian state left at least 10 people dead, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday.

Police gunned down two members of the so-called Bhindranwale Tiger Force in a gun battle at a village near Ludhiana city early Tuesday. The group is among a half-dozen campaigning for a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab.

Police recovered a Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle, a favored militant weapon, and a home-made gun from the dead men.

Within hours, separatists struck at two places, killing four people, the agency said.

An unknown number of Sikh gunmen raided a house in the border district of Amritsar, dragged out a 20-year-old Sikh woman and a member of the minor Nihang Sikh sect and shot them dead, police were quoted as saying. A note left behind by the killers dubbed the man a "loose character."

In adjoining Gurdaspur District, Sikh militants gunned down a father and son, both Hindus, at their home in Malia Khurap village and escaped before police could be alerted, PTI said.

Bodies of two Sikhs, apparent victims of Sikh separatists, were found in a field in Hoshiarpur District Tuesday.

In other incidents late Monday, three Sikh separatists shot dead a Sikh man and seriously wounded his brother in Kapurthala District, while a Sikh militant took cyanide and died to escape arrest in Ludhiana District, PTI said. The dead militant carried a reward of 30,000 rupees (2,140 U.S. dollars) on his head.

PTI said additional companies of para-military forces had been moved to Punjab during the past week to combat the Sikh separatist violence which has left more than 2,060 people dead so far this year. The news agency gave no numbers for the reinforcements.

Pant Denies Gandhi Took Commission in Bofors Deal
BK1711041888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, asserted in Parliament today that the recent allegations made by Mr V.P. Singh [former finance minister and now an opposition leader] against the prime minister involving him in the payment of commission in the Bofors gun deal are absolutely false and utterly baseless. He said this is clear from the fact that Mr Singh has backed out from substantiating the specific and serious charges he had publicly made. Such utterances give a setback to democracy in the country. Mr Pant was replying to a short-duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha and a special discussion in the Lok Sabha on the reported disclosures in the Bofors gun deal.

The defense minister charged Mr Singh with making wild allegations without any shred of evidence to dramatize and sensationalize the issue. He recalled how Mr Singh was asked in the Lok Sabha yesterday to authenticate his press statement that Mr Rajiv Gandhi received 8 crore rupees in the Bofors deal and deposited the money in a Swiss bank, and how he had failed to do so. Even the Swiss bank account number referred to by Mr Singh in his press statement has nothing to do with (?Lotus). Mr V.P.Singh could not even show that (?Lotus) was the account of the prime minister.

Mr Pant said the so-called latest disclosures are an anticlimax since all the documents have been published in the English daily THE HINDU 5 months ago. Closely scrutinizing the three documents released by Mr V.P. Singh, he said one of these relates to a contract which has nothing to do with the acquisition of the Swedish howitzers. In another document, there is a big discrepancy in the figures quoted. Mr V.P. Singh has got all his facts wrong and cannot produce any evidence because there is none. The defense minister asked: Do you think the motives are noble? He regretted it has become a practice to level charges against the prime minister and then say we do not care to produce any evidence.

Mr Pant refuted the opposition allegation that the government has misled Parliament on the Bofors deal and that it has been shifting its stand. This is far from truth. He said the government has been taking both Houses of Parliament into confidence and sharing whatever information it had received from time to time. He asked the opposition to point out a single instance where the government has not been as open and forthright as in the Bofors deal. He denied that there are any inconsistencies in the prime minister's recent observation on the subject in the course of an interview to an English daily. The interview clearly states that the government has not slackened its inquiries into the alleged payment of commission. The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is on the job.

The minister's reply was repeatedly interrupted by the opposition members who demanded a fresh inquiry by another joint parliamentary committee [JPC]. Mr Pant rejected the demand and said JPC is not an investigating body. He also said it is not possible to cancel the Bofors contract on account of legal, financial, and security implications.

The defense minister disclosed that the government is seriously pursuing with the Swiss authorities the question of getting access to unaccounted wealth deposited by Indians in Swiss banks. Indian laws have already been amended for the purpose. The Indian Embassy in Berne is in touch with the concerned authorities. Mr Pant explained that the process could not be expedited as the Swiss Federal Council was on a long recess till the 3d week of last month.

In the resumed special discussion on the Bofors issue in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, described the charges made by Mr V.P. Singh as character assassination. The home minister cautioned the opposition parties against supporting Mr V.P. Singh who, Mr Buta Singh said, is not aboveboard.

Referring to the declaration of assets made by Mr V.P. Singh recently, he charged the Janata Dal leader with not disclosing the undeclared assets also. Mr Buta Singh's speech was marked by frequent interruptions from the opposition which sometimes led to heated exchanges between both sides. Mr Buta Singh accused Mr V.P. Singh of making contradictory statements about the prime minister. He referred to Mr V.P. Singh's interview to a Swedish news agency, published in a Calcutta daily, in which he had stated that the allegations against the

prime minister had not been substantiated. The home minister was also critical of Mr V.P. Singh for his reported claim at his press conference in Lucknow that he had recorded in some electronic memory machine important secrets about the prime minister's bank account abroad. Mr Buta Singh said we know how to get the machine and who has given it to Mr V.P. Singh.

During the discussion, opposition members accused the government of evading the issue of payment of commissions by Bofors to middlemen. They urged the government to devise a suitable mechanism to check any such payments in defense purchases. They also urged the government to bring forward a bill to make it obligatory for all members of Parliament, including ministers, to declare their assets within a specified time limit. A ruling party member said those who speak of value-based politics should practice them also.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Statement on PNC Declaration

NC1711065388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the declaration of an independent Palestine by the Palestine National Council in its recent session in Algeria. The statement says:

From the beginning the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its divine and Islamic beliefs, has not recognized a regime named Israel. It has supported and will continue to support the annihilation of that regime. It has always fully supported the struggles of the Muslim nation for the liberation of Palestine and holy Jerusalem and for the vindication of the just and legal rights of this oppressed nation. The Islamic Republic of Iran assesses the recent extensive uprising by the Palestinian nation against the Zionist occupiers, which was carried out under the most severe and savage suppressive methods and which is entering its 12th month, within this context and fully supports it.

The statement emphasizes: The formation of an independent Palestine within the entire Palestinian territory is a holy ideal envisioned by all Muslim and struggling Palestinians. It enjoys the full support of the world of Islam and especially of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers any overture or step leading to the recognition of and ensuring the security and stability of the Zionist regime occupying Palestine as contrary to the interests and undeniable rights of the Palestinian nation and of the world of Islam. It rejects this and considers it contrary to the liberation of dear Palestine and the formation of an independent Palestine.

The statement declares: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the only way to the fulfillment of the just rights of the Muslim and oppressed Palestinian nation, especially under the current sensitive conditions, as the all-embracing continuation of the struggles of the people against the occupying Zionists, and confirms the need for the agreement of all Islamic nations on this. It states its all-embracing support for the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine and of Lebanon.

Musavi Assails Implicit Recognition of Israel

LD1611183288 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said no organization or government had the right to give "even an inch of the Islamic land of Palestine" to the Zionist regime.

"Even if all governments recognize the Zionist regime, Muslim nations will still consider Israel as a cancerous tumor," he said.

Speaking at a Cabinet session Wednesday, Musavi said the recognition of Israel by those pretending to favor the liberation of Palestine has aroused deep anger of revolutionary forces in the Muslim world.

The Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile declared an independent Palestinian state Tuesday in a decision widely seen as a firm step towards the recognition of Israel which has occupied most of Palestine since 1948.

The premier noted that those who now recognize Israel were the same who previously claimed that Iraq-Iran war had diverted the attention of Arab forces from the issue of Palestine.

"Their decision on Tuesday to implicitly recognize Israel unveiled the false claims of these circles," he added.

Musavi said "We still stick to our uncompromising position in support of the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian people."

During the cabinet session, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati briefed the ministers on the third round of Iran-Iraq peace talks that ended Friday after 11 days in Geneva.

USSR Reportedly Arming 'Terrorist Groups'

LD1611164788 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, (IRNA)—Recent political moves by Moscow seem to be aimed at "disrupting the political balance in Iran-Soviet relations," the TEHRAN TIMES said Wednesday [16 November] and accused Moscow of supplying arms to Iranian terrorist groups.

"The once warm Tehran-Moscow relations would envisage the possibility of signing even strategic defense agreements and very extensive relations between the two nations.

"But with the complex Soviet policies of the past six months, the idea that one can never rely upon strategic ties with Kremlin leaders is once again bolstered," it said.

The English-language paper was commenting on a series of meetings between Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and high ranking Iranian officials. Bessmertnykh left on 13 November after three days of talks.

In meetings with Soviet officials Iranian leaders have expressed positive views in line with the policy of expanding relations with neighboring countries, the paper noted.

"But some information, although not yet confirmed by reliable sources, is indicative of a lack of goodwill on the part of Soviets in their position takings.

"However, realistic assertions of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister in the meeting with Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the effect that Moscow has made many mistakes in recent decades should not go unheeded. Such an admission may be looked upon positively for the future of the two countries' ties.

"But the existing imbalance in the two nations' relations can be attributed to Moscow's dispatch to Iraq of Scud-B missiles. The move did a lot in causing concern and indignation among the Tehran leaders.

"And today another piece of disappointing news has been unearthed. Reports have reached Tehran that Moscow is supplying the terrorist groups, (like) the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] with military and intelligence aids.

"Also recently some political circles here have claimed that Soviet-linked elements have been traced in insurgency-related moves among some Baluchi groups in Iran.

However "concern about Soviet moves should not be overblown we should at any rate be more cautious in expanding politico-economic ties with the Soviet Union," the TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

Hostage Release 'Deal' Reportedly Discussed
NC1611153588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1522 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] REUTER has quoted an Islamic security source as saying that Iran is making preparations for the possible release of the U.S. hostages in Lebanon. The source added that Iran is discussing a deal with Washington which includes exchanging the hostages for the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and releasing the frozen Iranian assets in the United States.

The source reported that secret negotiations between U.S. and Iranian representatives are currently taking place in a European country, thought to be Spain. This step comes in the wake of the Iraq-Iran ceasefire and the election of George Bush as U.S. President.

Khomeyni Meets With Islamic Unification Leader
LD1611223988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Lebanon, was received by Imam Khomeyni this morning. He had talks with the imam of the ummah.

Khamene'i Receives Envoys' Credentials
LD0911163288 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Four new "diplomatic guests" of the Islamic Republic separately called on the president today and submitted their credentials.

The first one to meet Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i was Bulgarian Ambassador Ivan Gospodinov, who presenting his credentials called for expansion of mutual ties.

President Khamene'i, welcoming expansion of ties with Sofia, referred to the Islamic Republic's firm stance against the spread of nuclear arms and pledged Iran's support for any efforts towards disarmament.

Bringing under control "such grave threats" to the world community, should not be an empty slogan, he said. The president urged practical steps in this regard. Khamene'i also called on world governments to take serious actions against the use of chemical weapons.

The next diplomat to submit his credentials to the Iranian president was from neighbouring Turkey.

"Ankara considers ties with Tehran well beyond the short-term strategy" said Ambassador Omer Akbel, calling for strengthening of bilateral ties.

President Khamene'i replied that deep and sincere cooperation is in the interest of the two Muslim neighbours.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979), the president continued, the Islamic Republic has attached special importance to its relations with Turkey. "The trend should be continued through sincere and serious efforts," he emphasised.

Meanwhile, the new Polish ambassador Stefan Szymczykiewicz [name as received] also submitted his credentials to President Khamene'i today.

Conveying the best regards of the chairman of Poland's Council of State General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the ambassador expressed his country's readiness for expansion of economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Iran.

Warsaw fully understands Iran's peaceful stance and supports it, Szymczykiewicz said refering to the United nations' Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for settlement of the Iran-Iraq dispute.

President Khamene'i appreciated Poland's position towards full implementation of the Resolution 598, and said the U.N. chief's implementation plan is the only just solution in this regard.

All countries seeking peace and stability in the region and the world should exert pressure on the party (Iraq) obstructing full enforcement of 598, he stressed.

Later in the day, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i had another visitor. Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Larwi Uled Khalifah [name as received] submitting his credentials, said the two countries should continue to defend the rights of the opressed in world forums and fight against imperialism and neo-colonialism.

"Algerian people are our brethren," responded Khamene'i and said Iran believes there are many grounds for Tehran-Algiers cooperation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i called for serious and sincere efforts to this end.

New UK Charge d'Affaires To Arrive Early Dec

LD1611210788 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 15, IRNA—Britain's first charge d'affaires to Tehran for 8 years is expected to take up his post in the first week of December.

Gordon Pirie leaves England on Friday [18 November] with his Iranian wife to make his way by car over the 5,000 kms journey. His unusual method of transport is thought to give him an opportunity to have a good look at northwest Iran.

The diplomat was previously in Iran during September's Tehran Trade Fair and prior to that as a first secretary. He is one of 32 staff who speak Farsi at the Foreign Office.

Pirie's appointment is on an interim basis and follows last week's agreement between Iran and Britain to restore full relations. Other British diplomats, to eventually number 16, will not start arriving in Tehran until January.

Kenya's President Continues Talks With Leaders

Meets With Esfahan Officials

LD1611211088 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Esfahan, Nov. 16, IRNA—Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi arrived here Wednesday morning, and was welcomed by Mustafa Mir Salim adviser to Iran's President Khamene'i, governor general of Esfahan Province Gholam Hoseyn Karbaschi and local officials. The Kenyan president heading a ranking delegation from his country arrived in Tehran Monday.

Earlier in Tehran, Daniel arap Moi and the Kenyan delegates visited the traditional athletics at "Martyr Fahmideh" sports gymnasium Tuesday evening and watched Iranian athletes perform traditional athletic feats.

The Kenyan president and members of the visiting delegation were also presented with gifts in memory of the traditional Iranian athletics.

Holds Meeting With Musavi

LD1711054188 Tehran IRNA in English 0531 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA—The visiting Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a meeting here Wednesday night discussed expansion of bilateral political, economic and cultural relations.

During the meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and political deputy of the prime minister 'Alireza Mo"yeri President Moi referred to the long-standing Tehran-Nairobi relations.

On talks of the Kenyan officials who arrive here last Monday with the Iranian authorities President Moi said that great potentials exist for mutual cooperation.

On status of the African countries he said that they have chosen independence and that the African countries including Namibia will succeed in attaining this goal.

President Moi also stressed Iran-Kenya cooperation in international circles and organizations.

Premier Musavi said that relations with Third World countries in general and the African countries in particular are given a top priority in Iran's foreign policy. As a result, he added, in post-revolution period the volume of Iran's trade with Third World countries rose from three percent to 30 percent.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the trip to Iran of the Kenyan president will help promote Tehran-Nairobi ties and Iran's relations with African countries.

Ends 'Highly Successful' Visit

LD1711082588 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The Kenyan 65-member delegation headed by President Daniel arap Moi left Tehran Thursday morning at the end of a four-day visit and talks with President 'Ali Khamane'i, Premier Hoseyn Musavi and Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

President Moi was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by President 'Ali Khamene'i. Foreign deplomats were also present at the airport.

Foreign Ministers of Iran and Kenya 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Robert Ouko signed a Letter of Understanding at the conclusion of the visit.

In a press conference held at the Presidential Bureau this morning President Khamene'i and President Moi described the visit as "highly successful". President Moi told reporters his trip laid a solid foundation for future of Tehran-Nairobi relations and paved the way for mutual cooperation in trade and agricultural fields. He described prospects of bilateral relations as bright.

On the Iran-Iraq peace-talks for ending the Iraq-Iran war, President Moi expressed the hope peace will be established through mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

President Khamene'i also told reporters the visit paved the way for cooperation between the two countries.

Asked about President Moi's invitation, President Khamene'i said that he hoped to visit Nairobi in an appropriate opportunity.

Earlier this morning presidents of the two countries held second round of talks. Officials from both sides attended the talks held at the Presidential Bureau.

In the talks President Moi thanked his Iranian counterpart for warm hospitality extended to the Kenyan delegation and said that the visit and talks laid a strong foundation for the future of Iran-Kenya relations. He also invited President Khamene'i to visit Nairobi.

President Khamene'i too described the visit as "highly beneficial" for the future of mutual ties and said that Iran is interested in promoting these ties. He also stressed that Iran is ready to train Kenyan experts in livestock breeding. He added that talks on technical cooperation should be followed up.

The president added that under the Letter of Understanding signed between the two counties a joint commission will be formed to help further expand bilateral relations.

In talks of the Kenyan delegation with Iranian officials over the past three days Iran agreed to purchase meat, dairy products and home appliances from Iran. Kenya also agreed to purchase oil from Iran.

Venezuelan Minister Makes Stopover Visit

LD1511101288 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Julio Caesar Gil who arrived here Monday evening said at present the main problems facing the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is over-production by certain member states. He is carrying a message from President Jaime Lusinchi to President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran.

In an interview upon arrival he said only a proper agreement on production ceiling could prevent price falls in the market.

He stressed that the OPEC in its 84th session scheduled of November 21 in the Austrian capital of Vienna must reach a consensus on the organizations's production ceiling and oil prices.

He added at present oil price has dropped to its lowest since 1986 which has caused economic and other problems to the 13 members of OPEC. He stressed that the 1989 production must be such as to boost prices.

According to the Venezuelan minister a production ceiling of 18-18.5 million BPD [barrels per day] would be reasonable for the 1989. He warned that production beyond that would precipitate another price fall and crisis for members. He pointed out that Iraq, too, like other OPEC members must observe the quota system as well as other decisions of the organization.

The Venezuelan official is to continue his trip to Baghdad and from there to Vienna for the upcoming OPEC meet. Earlier on Monday Indonesian Minister of Mines and Metals Ginanjar Kartasasmita wound up a visit to Tehran after talks with Iranian officials and Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

Petroleum Minister on Fuel Distribution Figures

NC1311075788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh by an unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] We have come to talk to Petroleum Minister Mr Aqazadeh on the distribution of winter fuel. Mr Aqazadeh?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. As a prologue to discussing the fuel situation this winter, I would like to explain some points. During

the first 6 months of this year [beginning 21 March 1988], we were unable to supply a sufficient quantity of fuel to the public because of the war and the damages inflicted on our pumping stations and (?some) of our refineries. However, since the cease-fire and with the new conditions, all the refineries—with the exception of the Abadan refinery—have begun operating with a good output. The [word indistinct] of our products [words indistinct] are being (?imported). In order to explain this, I would like to say that we transport to the refineries about 750,000 barrels of domestic crude and about 300,000 barrels of crude from abroad. This quantity is refined and the products are offered to the domestic market. Out of this number of refineries and this volume of imports, we distribute about 130 million liters of products daily. This volume is very high in comparison with countries similar to ours.

We will gradually replace gas with these products and thus prevent a growth in their consumption. In other words, the intention is to maintain the 100-million barrel level. If some day we are able to remove the burden of consumption from these products and to place it instead on the shoulders of the gas company with its 200,000 to 250,000 branches, then we will have taken a very good and positive step.

With this prologue then, I want to add that we are trying our best to distribute the products to the public during the second 6 months of this year; that is, beginning in Mehr [month beginning 23 September 1988], especially with the cold season here now. As an example, the program that we have in mind for [word indistinct] (?oil) for the second 6 months is about 26 million liters a month. This quantity is about 3 million liters more than last year. Of course, as it is somewhat late, we are facing difficulties in its transportation—with tires and spare parts.

I would like to ask all oil tanker drivers to help the distribution company in transporting these products, for the sake of the people's welfare and in order to serve the people. We distribute about 50 million liters of disel fuel and more than 20 million liters of gas and [words indistinct] in the country. These were the figures distributed in Mehr. In Aban [month beginning 23 October] we will strive to increase distribution over that in Mehr. Having explained the situation, I would like to ask the dear people to economize as much as possible in their use of fuel so that we can pass this winter, God willing, with fewer difficulties.

Oil Minister Departs for Vienna OPEC Meeting

LD1711071888 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today said before leaving here for OPEC's ministerial meet in Vienna, that Iran would not accept an equal quota for Iraq under any circumstances but that "we are ready for any cooperation with OPEC while sticking to our previous positions."

The oil minister told IRNA in an interview that if the OPEC ministerial meet (to start next Monday) fails to reach agreement on production ceiling and quotas, the already unfavorable oil market would become even worse.

Monday's meeting is preceded by a gathering today of OPEC's pricing and strategy committees in Vienna.

Aqazadeh expressed hopes that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries would manage to decide a suitable production ceiling based on a "realistic evaluation" of the demand in the market.

"Any agreement," he stressed, "must include all the 13 members or there must be basically no agreement." He added that experience shows production ceilings and quotas lacking unanimous agreement and a guarantee to implement them were unreliable and unstable.

He said order and discipline as well as respect for OPEC approvals were among important issues all the member states must reach understanding about.

Aqazadeh regretted the loss sustained by all OPEC states because certain member countries refused to observe the organisation's approvals in the interest of an 18 dollar (pb) [per barrel] base price.

The oil minister said the production must be at a level securing a suitable price in the market and this, he noted, will be among the priorities the OPEC ministers will discuss in their next meet.

Aqazadeh in conclusion expressed hope that Iraq would put aside its "illogical stands" and its oil minister would participate in the discussions with "more authority."

2 Oil Wells Damaged in U.S. Attack Capped

LD1611001188 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Iranian experts have successfuly capped the U.S. attacked oil wells of the "Reshadat" [name as received] field in the Persian Gulf, announced the Oil Ministry today.

The "Resalat" [name as received] and "Reshadat" oil fields, lying 100 kms south of Lavan Island midway between Iran and the UAE, were attacked without warning by the U.S. Navy on October 19, 1987—a day better known as the "Black Monday" for international stock exchange shareholders.

In an open show of support for the Iraqi war, the U.S. Navy also attacked last April two other Iranian oil platforms—Salman and Nasr. During the encounter a large number of American Marines were killed and wounded and a U.S. logistical ship, an American-operated oil rig and a Cobra helicopter gunship were set afire by Iran's naval forces.

The ministry said the experts of Iran's off-shore oil company have also brought under control "Well No. 16" of the "Sorush" oil field, which was set ablaze by Iraqi warplanes.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Arrives in Ahvaz
LD1611152288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, arrived in Ahvaz this morning, and was welcomed at the airport by the imam's representative and the city's Friday prayers leader, as well as Khuzestan Province's governor-general, local military and security commanders, provincal Friday prayers leaders, government department managers, and a group of esteemed martyr's families.

On arriving in Ahvaz Hashemi-Rafsanjani was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent. He said the reason for his visit was to meet the local people. He said: In talks with provincial officials we will review the province's problems and its inhabitants' deprivations caused by the war. According a Central News Unit report, at the gathering of provincial officials the acting commander in chief emphasized the necessity for combat readiness and said: We consider the possibility of the war resuming to be slight, but nonetheless we must always maintain our vigilance.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then remarked on Khuzestan Province's position regarding the country's economy. He stated: Khuzestan Province is one of the foundations [of the country's economy] and is the country's hope. Officials must work for economic and industrial growth in this province through careful planning.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need to reclaim Khuzestan's palm groves, which were destroyed during the imposed war. Talking about Khuzestan's reconstruction, the Majlis speaker said: The major part of the country's reconstruction task falls in Khuzestan, and the most important issues include: reconstruction and expansion of the petroleum, gas, petrochemical, fishing and road construction industries, as well as strengthening the province's military capablities. The acting commander in chief added: For reconstruction in the country within the current year and next year, a budget of 140 billion rials has been allocated, of which 500 million rials is in the form of foreign exchanges.

Concluding, Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked about the Khorramshahr's reconstruction, and said: Decisions about this have been made aimed at reconstructing the city on its previous geographical location. Further, a prescribed area of the city will be left untouched in order to exhibit the Iraqi regime's crimes during the imposed war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauds Teachers' Role
LD1411151288 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani today lauded the teachers' role and said the government gives priority to education in the post-war plans.

Speaking at a meeting with Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi and directors of provincial departments of the ministry, the Majlis speaker stressed that a serious mobilization is needed to compensate for past defencies in public education. He said there is no weakness in the education system except for limited facilities and material resources.

IRNA: Iraq Holding Back Names of POW's
LD1611204988 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Relatives of sick and wounded war prisoners in Iraq whose names have not been released by Baghdad have swarmed the Iranian Red Crescent Society to ask about their fate.

On Tuesday Iranian newspapers published the names of over 400 Iranian POWS in Iraq who will be released and repatriated as of 20 November. They included only those who have so far been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

Parents and close relatives of other wounded and sick POWS brought photographs taken from Iraqi television broadcasts received in Iran and letters from Iraqi camps to prove that Iraq had not released their names. They asked the Red Cross and IRNA to air their grievance to the international community to ensure the safe return of their dear ones.

Iran will release more than 1,000 registered Iraqi ill and injured POWS at the same time as the return of 411 Iranian sick and wounded POWS from Iraq.

A member of the commission for Iranian POWS said the Iranian sick and disabled POWS who are to be freed soon are among over 18,000 POWS who have been registered by the ICRC. The actual number of Iranian POWS is about 53,000, he added.

The official said the Islamic Republic is trying via the ICRC to repatriate those sick and disabled POWS whose names did not appear in the published list.

As agreed with the ICRC in Geneva last week, Iran and Iraq will start registering all remaining ill and injured POWS with the ICRC from 5 December. They will be repatriated by 31 December.

Commentary on Iraqi Position at Geneva Talks
NC1511110988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, our foreign minister, Dr Velayati, returned to Tehran. Commenting on the third round of Iran-Iraq talks under the UN secretary general's supervision, he said that the main obstacle to the talks is the absence of a decisive and categorical (?position) by the Iraqi delegation on the implementation of Resolution No 598. Our foreign minister was in fact referring to [words indistinct] in the 12 days of talks in Geneva. [passage omitted]

Although more than 3 months have elapsed since the two sides accepted the cease-fire [words indistinct] no progress has been made in the substantive implementation of all the clauses of Resolution No 598. Difficulties continue (?to surface).

The first difficulty within the framework of the resolution is the return of the forces of both countries to the international borders. Simultaneous with the acceptance of the cease-fire [words indistinct] and witnessed suspicious Iraqi movements in the border zone and [words indistinct].

Clause 1 of Resolution No 598 stipulates that both countries should withdraw their forces to the international borders without delay. This section of Clause 1 remains in abeyance. The real reason for this is Iraq's political position, which stems from its expansionist objectives. Many circles agree that Iraq is trying to extract from the peace talks what it failed to achieve by war. For example, it declares that the 1975 Iran-Iraq accord is null and void. Others believe that Iraq is in a difficult position as regards the implementation of the substance of Resolution No 598 because it will not only be unable to attain any of the objectives for which it initiated the war, but will also have to shoulder immense responsibility for having started the war. This will generate innumerable problems for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the future.

It is for this reason that Iraq is seeking to slow down the pace of the talks and to postpone the substantive implementation of Resolution No 598. It is playing for time in order to reduce the burden of dangers which may later assail the regime. [passage omitted]

Iraq's strategy, whatever it may be, can only result in slowing down progress toward the implementation of the resolution and in the prolongation of the state of "neither war nor peace." On the other hand, the Iraqi regime's attitude, which is the logical result of its strategy, has at least revealed the fact that this regime does not seriously favor Resolution No 598 and has not really accepted it in principle.

Prior to the latest round of talks, the Iraqi regime's tactics were to display its opposition to and disagreement on the implementation of the resolution by laying down preconditions and resorting to pretexts. However, in the latest round of talks in Geneva which concluded last Friday, the regime engaged in new tactics. While continuing its obstructionism in practice, it strove to portray itself as being in favor of progress at the talks and of the elimination of obstacles and difficulties.

However, these tactics on the part of the Iraqi regime, coupled with its opposition to the UN secretary general's four-point plan, have been exposed by the Geneva talks as unsuccessful. This situation in particular has accentuated this fact that the Iraqi regime has not taken any categorical political decision regarding the implementation of Resolution No 598.

In any case, the next round of Geneva talks, which will be held in a month or so, can only have a positive or constructive outcome if by that time international guarantees can be given for the implementation of Resolution No 598, especially by the Security Council. Past experience has shown that international pressure has been effective in (?changing) the Iraqi regime's attitude. It is imperative that the UN Security Council members and the international community exert similar pressure now, stressing the need to implement of Resolution No 598 and transform the "neither peace nor war" situation, which is fraught with many dangers, into a situation where there is real peace.

Commentary Questions Security Council's Attitude
LD1611235288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Geneva talks are facing countless problems and difficulties because of the Iraqi regime's continued acts of obstructionism. After making a big fuss about seeking peace and falsely claiming to accept the UN Security Council resolution, the Ba'thist regime is revealing its evil and expansionist nature by creating various obstacles to the implementation of this resolution. In the present circumstances it seems certain that the Iraqi Ba'thist rulers would not dare play such ridiculous games with the accepted norms and regulations of the international community and ignore its commitments to these forums without relying on either or both of the two superpowers. This opinion is proven in view of the relaxed attitudes of the Security Council members and that organization's refusal to adopt a decisive and serious position on the excuses of and obstacles created by the Baghdad rulers.

The nation of Iran wonders why the Security Council as the executive arm of the United Nations is so negligent in the face of the Ba'thists' obstructionism and is not making a serious response to the deadlock of the Geneva peace talks. Is the Security Council incapable of implementing Resolution No 598 which it adopted? Or are there some invisible hands that desire to prevent peace in the region in order to keep the situation open for the escalation of tension and crisis? Why are the five permanent members of the Security Council, who put so much

pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran for months to force it to accept Resolution No 598, so negligent as regards the Ba'thists' time-wasting?

At any rate, the international community and the Security Council must bring pressure to bear on the Baghdad regime to make it abandon its satanic policies. This is the only way to speed up the peace talks and restore security to the region. As the Supreme Defense Council chairman said during Tehran Friday prayer sermons: As we declared, we accepted Resolution No 598 and we are serious about it. However, the most crucial matter today, which must be tackled before anything else, is the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders, a demand that we are not going to give up. The aggressive forces that violated our borders must return behind the borders.

Pakistan

General Election Results Reported; PPP Leads

Bhutto Wins Islamabad Seat

BK1611231288 Hong Kong AFP in English 2259 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto won a seat in Wednesday's general elections and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had taken a strong lead in the polls, official sources said here Thursday. Her mother Nusrat Bhutto and father-in-law Hakim Ali Zardari were also elected and the PPP had 17 seats out of a total 37 declared so far, official results showed. The PPP's main rivals, the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) formed by followers of late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq, had six seats, the Awami National League (ANP) three and independents 11.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto, daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who was overthrown in a coup by General Ziaul Haq in 1977 and executed two years later, had been a favourite in pre-election opinion polls for prime minister. The PPP was notably leading in Sind Province, where 46 seats were at stake, and was on the way to winning half the 115 seats in the Punjab, results showed. Analysts had earlier said the two areas would be critical for victory in the polls in which neither the PPP or the IJI had expected a landslide win. Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, the core leader of the IJI, was elected in Lahore, official sources said.

Bhutto Wins in Larkana

BK1611233288 Hoag Kong AFP in English 2323 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Larkana, Pakistan, Nov 17 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto claimed victory here early Thursday in Pakistan's general elections. She told reporters in this southern city that her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had won 80 out of 120 results communicated to her by her party. According to official results, Ms. Bhutto and her mother Nusrat Bhutto both won seats in the election. The PPP's main rival was the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) formed by supporters of late president Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

A total 204 seats were at stake in Wednesday's elections, with polling postponed in three constituencies due to candidates having died and an additional 10 seats reserved for non-Moslems. According to the latest official results, the PPP had 17 seats out of a total 37 declared so far, the IJI had six seats, the Awami National League (ANP) three and independents 11. [passage omitted]

PPP Leading in 3 Provinces

BK1711050588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0432 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto's main opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was heading for victory in Wednesday's general elections, leading in three out of the country's four provinces, radio and television reported Thursday.

Out of the 133 constituencies declared the PPP had secured 69 and its main rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), was trailing with 27 seats, official results showed. Independents and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) had won 28. A total of 104 seats is required for an absolute majority.

As first results started pouring in past midnight Wednesday in the first party-based elections in 11 years, Ms Bhutto, the favourite for prime minister in pre-election public opinion polls, claimed her party had won two-thirds of the 120 results communicated to her overnight.

The PPP emerged as the single largest party in Sind, the Bhutto family's home province, where the IJI was virtually wiped out as the MQM, an ethnic regional grouping, also defeated at least four party heads, including IJI Secretary-General Abdul Ghafur and the religious minister in the outgoing government, Wazir Mazhar Nadvi.

Victims of the PPP in Sind included IJI convener Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, once seen as a contender for the premiership. Others were former Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, president of the conservative Pakistan Muslim League, in Sanghar District, and his mentor Pir Mardan Shah Pagaro, a veteran politician and traditional spiritual leader of Sind.

However the Bhutto party suffered setbacks elsewhere. PPP Secretary-General Tikka Khan, a retired general, was defeated by IJI candidate Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Rawalpindi, and the party's leading lawyer, Yahya Bakhtiar, lost to the religio-political JUI [Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam] Party in Baluchistan. The PPP failed to win any seats in Baluchistan, where local tribal chiefs have not forgiven the decision by late former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Ms Bhutto's father, to dissolve the rival provincial governments in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province in 1973-74.

But in the North West Frontier Province partial results gave the PPP six seats out of 26, a great advance on the 1970 elections when it had only one member of parliament from that province. The PPP was also ahead in populous Punjab Province, the country's biggest and politically the most important, which was long considered an IJI stronghold. The PPP had secured 28 of the province's 115 seats, but the IJI followed close behind with 23. The IJI also won three seats in Baluchistan.

The PPP also secured Islamabad's lone seat, defeating an IJI nominee and a former naval chief during the regime of the late President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Admiral Karamat Rehman Niazi, who stood as an independent. Radio and television reports said Ms Bhutto won all the three seats she contested, in Larkana, Karachi and Lahore, while her main rival, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, won in Lahore but lost to a PPP nominee in Multan. Similarly her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto won in both Larkana and north western Chitral, while her father-in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari, also secured his seat.

The Pakistan Constitution allows candidates to stand for more than one seat, but if successful they must choose which constituency to represent and new polling is held elsewhere. Ms Bhutto said the triumph showed the people's love for the PPP and its leadership. Analysts said the trend in Sind and Punjab also indicated popular desire for a change in the leadership of the country after 11 years of military rule.

Almost all the old stalwarts met crushing blows, and only those candidates considered to have acted for the welfare of the population were returned. The IJI defeat was also partly due to a division in the rightists' ranks, they said.

For an absolute majority Ms Bhutto needs 104 seats, and if the PPP lead is maintained in Punjab where more than half the results were still awaited, she would be asked to form the government, political analysts said. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who replaced Gen Ziaul Haq after his death in a plane crash on August 17, has already said the country's constitution does not prevent a woman from becoming prime minister. The chief of the Army Staff, Gen. Aslam Beg, also expressed the confidence that political leaders would accept the verdict of the ballot box.

Wednesday's polling took place under tight security and no incidents were reported. Turnout was not confirmed but analysts predicted it would be little more than 50 percent of the 48 million electorate due to a controversial rule that voters had to present identity cards which many rural inhabitants do not have.

Junejo, Jatoi Lose Contests

BK1711004488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] First results in Pakistan's National Assembly elections show that the main opposition Pakistan People's Party [PPP] led by Miss Benazir Bhutto has won 40 of 77 results declared so far. According to Radio Pakistan the Islamic Democratic Alliance has bagged 18 seats, while 19 seats have gone in favor of independents and other smaller parties.

Miss Benazir Bhutto and her mother Mrs Nusrat Bhutto have won with huge margins. The former Punjab governor and an independent candidate Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khan was also among the winners, while prominent losers include the former prime minister, Mr Junejo; the PPP Frontier Province president, Mr Aftab Sherpao; the National People's Party chief, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi; the information minister, Mr Elahi Bux Sumro; and the religious minister, Mr Wazir Mazhar Nadvi.

President on Convening Assembly

BK1711023088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0215 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan inspected the control room of the Election Commission and assessed arrangements for procuring and announcing results of the National Assembly in Islamabad last night.

Talking to newsmen on the occasion, he said the new National Assembly's session will be convened within 1 month after the elections [by 17 December]. New members will take their oaths of office and elect 20 women members [for reserved seats]. Speaker will be elected before the first formal session.

Answering a question, the president said the prime minister may be nominated at any stage, but he has to seek a vote of confidence from the house within 2 months.

Latest Election Trends Viewed

BK1711103688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1032 GMT 17 Nov 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto looked destined Thursday to form a coalition government as her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) continued to lead parliamentary election returns.

Lacking a solid majority, the PPP was likely to negotiate a coalition with independent candidates and small political groups after Ms Bhutto declared victory hours after polls closed Wednesday. PPP supporters were cruising the streets shouting "Bhutto Zindabad" (Long Live Bhutto) over loudspeakers. Her rival, Nawaz Sharif of the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), refused to give up the fight, saying his group could still forge alliances and assume power in the 217-seat national assembly. [passage omitted]

Tension, but no disturbances, was reported in Rawalpindi and Karachi where rival parties were claiming victory. The slow rate of vote-counting was prompting

rumors of fraud in political circles. There are 217 seats in the national assembly, including 10 reserved for non-Moslems, and interim President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is responsible for picking a prime minister who can promise majority support in parliament.

Twenty seats reserved for women will be designated by the new national assembly and thus reflect its composition. Two seats will not be filled because two candidates have died. In an implicit reference to the 35-year-old Ms Bhutto, Mr Khan said Wednesday that the Pakistani Constitution does not prohibit a woman from becoming head of government.

Talks between the political parties and independent candidates, which in some cases have already begun, will be as decisive as the attitude of top soldiers who generally favor the Moslem League, the principal IJI member party, observers said. Top members of the IJI, including former Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo, IJI Chairman Mustafa Jatoi and veteran politician Pir Pagara all suffered personal electoral defeats, sometimes at the hands of PPP unknowns. Mr Sharif, chief minister of Punjab State, emerged as the only important leader of the conservative Islamic group to have a National Assembly seat.

Pakistan's Army chief, General Aslam Beg, has said the military will respect the verdict of the electorate, but he also indicated in another declaration that the Armed Forces were guarantors of the nation's security and integrity.

Bhutto Holds News Conference

BK1711144688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Larkana, Pakistan, Nov 17 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Thursday that her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has accepted the results of Wednesday's elections and expects to be asked to form the next government.

Ms Bhutto, 35, said Interim President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should now ask her to form the next government since the PPP had emerged as the "single largest party with elected representation in the country." The PPP had won at least 92 seats in the National Assembly by the latest count, short of the 104 needed for an absolute majority but well ahead of its main rival the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), which secured 54 seats.

Speaking at a press conference at her family villa in this town in southern Sind Province, Ms Bhutto said there had been selective vote-rigging against PPP candidates in Punjab Province but that her party accepted the results. "We are not agitating, but will ask the individual candidates to take up the matter with the election commission," she said. [passage omitted]

Congratulating the people of Pakistan on the victory, Ms Bhutto asked them to turn out for provincial assembly elections on Saturday to enable her party to form the governments in the country's four provinces.

Asked what the attitude of the country's Armed Forces would be towards her government, Ms Bhutto said she anticipated no problems. Pakistani Army Chief General Aslam Beg has said the military will respect the verdict of the electorate. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

President Congratulates PLO on Proclamation

BK1611114388 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Sri Lanka extends continued support for the full realization of the rights of the Palestinian people. President Jayewardene, in a message to chairman of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, says he is happy to learn that Palestine National Council has proclaimed the establishment of the state of Palestine. He further says this proclamation is the outcome of the long struggle of the Palestinian people to establish their own homeland and is a tribute to Mr 'Arafat's leadership. This decision brings within a close reach a just and fair solution to the Middle East problem. He adds that the government and the people of Sri Lanka join him in sending warm congratulations and best wishes to the Palestinian people on this happy occasion.

Police Fire on Demonstration in Matale; 2 Killed

BK1511132288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1236 GMT 15 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 15 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A 55-year-old woman, the mother of two Army officers, a captain and a lieutenant, who had served in northern Sri Lanka battling separatist terrorists was one of a number of old women who were forced by subversives to serve as human shields in an illegal demonstration at Ukkuwela in Sri Lanka's Central Province district of Matale this morning, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

They said that the subversives had begun rioting and set fire to two Sri Lanka Transport Board buses.

Several warnings by the police to disperse went unheeded and the police were forced to open fire. The subversives fired back at the police, the official sources said.

The mother of the two Army officers was one of two persons who were killed. There were no police casualties reported.